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Families voice safety fears over new £320k play park

By Eva Astreinidou

A PLAY park revamp costing £320,000 has come under fire from residents concerned about poor build quality at the newly unveiled project.

The new play area at Abbey Meadows, Abingdon was officially opened on June 15, much to the joy of residents and children.

But now residents have raised concerns saying that the play equipment, which was funded by Vale of White Horse District Council, is of poor quality, a claim denied by the council.

Ben Wiskin, a father-of-two from south Abingdon, took a video documenting 'loose parts' around the play area and claims to have overheard maintenance staff talking about the 'poor build quality'.

He said: "They were commenting on the fact that lots of the work was not done to the plans set out including the metal slide that was supposed to be plastic.

"We also heard the groundsmen saying that every morning they have to go into the park early and tighten all the bolts up as the whole structure is continuously loose."

He added: "It seems all the major support posts are loose, the safety nets have loose bolts and it is obvious that a lot are being repeatedly tightened, including the main slide support.

"The higher up you go, the worse it gets - walk ways, grab handles, supports holding up the nets that kids are walking over, are all loose.

A shot from Ben Wiskin's video

"The wood is also badly cracking – £320k for a partly recycled park seems hugely excessive, especially when the quality of the materials is so poor."

His comments were echoed by other residents.

Karen Sharp described the park as an accident waiting to happen, while Mike Woodbridge said: "[It's] another Abingdon quick fix. Totally unacceptable where kids welfare is at stake."

A spokesperson for the district council said the revamped park has received 'a very positive response'.

He said: "The play equipment has been designed and constructed by specialist play manufacturers and an independent inspection was carried out by an approved play inspector prior to the opening confirming the park meets with current standards.

"Safety is of the utmost importance to us and, as with all district council owned play areas, we will continue to monitor its use and carry out repairs if needed."

Visitors enjoy journey back in time at fair

RETRO was back in style at the Abingdon Vintage & Antique Fair over the weekend.

The event on Saturday was a great success with stalls set down in Bath Street and vintage cars in the busy market square.

Around the memorial were vintage street food vans, free crafts for the kids and musician Ron Clooney entertained with fantastic blues covers. People shopped and perused through vintage gifts and enjoyed a variety of artisan homewares and retro finds in the glorious sunshine.

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Catching the Wind in the Willows killer

Left, the detectives who worked on the case. Right, Danaher and a selfie he took just after the murder of Adrian Greenwood, below, killed for a book

By Eva Astreinidou

A DOCUMENTARY on the investigation of the murder of art dealer Adrian Greenwood, who was killed for a £50,000 edition of The Wind in the Willows, aired this week.

The Channel 4 documentary Catching a Killer: The Wind in the Willows aired on Monday, showing the operation to uncover the killer, 10 months after the murderer was sent to prison for life.

Detective Superintendent Kevin Brown, Detective Inspector Stuart Blaik and family liaison officer Jacqui Redgard spoke to the Guardian about their experience from the case.

DI Blaik said: "Any sort of investigation like that will always be difficult to manage.

"There will always be good points and a lot of points where you don't know what's happened or how you are going to get to the next stage.

"It does involve human emotion. As professional as we are, we are still human beings underneath it all [and] I think that is reflected well in the programme."

The murderer, Michael Danaher, 51, had no previous convictions before murdering Mr Greenwood, 42, at his home at Iffley Road on April 6, 2016.

The documentary shows pivotal moments of the investigation that ensued, including identifying the killer's car.

DS Brown said: "The car took an awful lot of work. We went through a million cars.

"[And] at the back of your mind you always question is it that car, is this our man."

On the interaction with ex-wife Elaine, Jacqui said: "We were very lucky because they were a perfectly normal, law-abiding family, and the boys had been brought up beautifully by both Michael and by their mum."

DS Brown added: "Our number one priority is the family of the person we are trying to seek justice for, so the person who has been murdered. They are the focus of our attention."

Danaher stabbed Mr Greenwood 16 times at his home before stealing the antique book.

Danaher was found guilty of one count of murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment in October 2016, to serve a minimum of 34 years.

Jurors heard Danaher had taken a selfie moments after the crime and had drawn up a list of people with money – potential targets being Kate Moss and venture capitalist Adrian Beecroft.

Three GPs leave failing surgery as improvement work continues

THREE long-standing doctors have left a Banbury surgery which has been rated 'inadequate'.

GP partners Dr Jonathan Williams, Dr Angela Alcock and Dr Liz Dawson left Horsefair Surgery at the end of June for 'personal reasons'.

The surgery has faced "significant pressure over the last two years", said the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

In May, the practice, which has more than 16,500 patients, was rated 'inadequate' overall by the Care Quality Commission and placed in special measures. It followed an inspection last August when concerns were raised.

The clinical commissioning group said 'some improvements' had been made over the last six months.

Dr Dawson said all three of the GPs were grateful for support from staff and patients.

She said: "We are immensely proud of the hard work that everyone at Horsefair surgery has put in to ensure we continue to deliver safe and responsive care to our patients.

"We are confident that Horsefair Surgery and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group will continue to work hard to ensure that our patients receive the best care possible with an improved CQC rating following the next inspection.

"It is with great sadness that we leave but we wish everyone well for the future."

The clinical commissioning group said it had been working with Horsefair Surgery to recruit new GPs to ensure continued care for patients.

Julie Dandridge, head of primary care at Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "OCCG recognises the efforts already made to improve services at Horsefair Surgery over the last few months, and will continue to support the practice to ensure patients get safe, good quality care and to find effective and long-lasting solutions to the concerns still highlighted by the CQC."

Eric Woodhouse, chairman of the Horsefair Surgery Patient Participation Group, said he was 'confident' all the points raised by the CQC inspectors would be addressed.

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POLICE officers left a lighthearted "sorry we missed you" note after a tip-off led them to a cannabis plantation.

Thames Valley Police found the drugs in woodland between Wolvercote Mill Stream and the A34 at 6pm on Friday.

After digging up the plantation officers left a 'sorry you were out' notice that read: "Ooops! Sorry we missed each other, but feel free to call me on 101 so we can discuss a deal."

It was signed: "Lots of love, TVP xx."

The force tweeted that they had left the note because "#WeveGotManners".

The drugs have been disposed of. No-one has been arrested.

Pension deal is accepted

By George Welch

WORKERS at Cowley's Mini plant have accepted BMW's revised offer to close their final salary pension, ending the threat of any further strikes.

More than 80 per cent of Unite members working at four BMW car plants across the country backed the German carmaker's final offer to bring an end to the long running pension dispute.

If the deal was rejected then 2,200 workers would have had their contracts terminated.

BMW had initially offered workers transitional payments worth £7,000 in an effort to solve the dispute but, under the revised offer, this will be increased to up to £25,000.

As well as in Cowley, workers in Goodwood near Chichester, Hams Hall in the West Midlands and Swindon took strike action in May and June.

Unite national officer Fred Hanna said: "BMW initially thought it could railroad its pension changes through with transitional payments of just £7,000.

"It's testament to the resolve of Unite members and their solidarity that the carmaker was forced to more than triple these payments and give additional guarantees."

It had seemed increasingly likely that workers at the Mini plant would strike again after Unite refused a pension offer from BMW midway through last month.

But now, Unite members have overwhelmingly backed the revised offer.

The Cowley Mini plant where workers have been on strike over pension plans. Picture: BMW

Mr Hanna added: "BMW's UK workforce is among the most efficient and skilled in the auto industry. We look forward to working with BMW to ensure the world beating Mini and Rolls-Royce motor cars go from strength to strength."

A BMW spokesperson said: "We believe that our pension proposals are fair and will help to ensure our competitiveness as a business, which is ultimately in the long-term interest of all our employees."

Blenheim unveils ambitious 10-year development plan

BLENHEIM Palace has unveiled a 10-year development programme designed to revolutionise the Oxfordshire World Heritage Site.

CEO Dominic Hare, pictured, said the programme includes tripling the estate's contribution to the local economy, housing 300 families in high quality affordable housing, completing a £40million restoration programme and becoming a net generator of green energy.

Other goals will see more than 100 apprentices trained, a doubling of Blenheim Palace's charitable impact on the local community, and the repurchasing of key historical artefacts which have been lost over generations

Mr Hare said: "The 10-year plan is a joint initiative devised in consultation with the management team, trustees and the duke. It underpins everything we are doing here at Blenheim Palace and involves everybody and every area of the estate.

"We believe there is no possible vision for a future successful and flourishing Blenheim which does not depend on a flourishing and successful set of communities around it – and the same is true in reverse.

"We have set an ambition to be the economic lifeblood of the area, to enhance the lives of the people in our communities and to sustain, grow and share the precious resources of the estate, the park and the palace."

Mr Hare also wants the estate to be rated among the top 100 employers in the country and to achieve annual visitor numbers in excess of 750,000.

He said: "It is a huge undertaking but I have been delighted and immensely encouraged by the positive reaction from staff and people within the local community.

"We are an enterprise with a centuries-old tradition of inventiveness, imagination, and boldness.

"We believe, today, we must continue to marry the decisiveness to act boldly, with a considered and long-term view of prosperity – for Blenheim and for the communities we support and who support us."

News Bites

Biker injured

WANTAGE: A 55-year-old motorcyclist is in hospital after colliding with a car.

The rider sustained serious injuries and was taken to John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, where he remains in a stable condition, after the crash on Sunday. It happened at around 3.45pm when a grey Kawasaki 1400 motorcycle and a green Audi estate collided on the B4494, Chainhill, Wantage.

The crash occurred approximately a mile south of Ormond Road.

Sergeant Ed Crofts, from Roads Policing, said: "I would ask anyone who witnessed this collision to please contact us with any information." Contact police on 101.

Fraud charge

OXFORD: A man has been charged with fraud after an elderly woman was allegedly told to withdraw thousands of pounds from her bank account.

Ahmed Hussain, 21, of no fixed abode, has been charged with one count of fraud by false representation.

The charge relates to an incident on July 1, in which an elderly woman was allegedly told to withdraw £5,300 from her bank account by an anonymous caller claiming to be a policeman.

Hussain appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court on Monday last week and was remanded to appear at Oxford Crown Court on August 4.

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Beliebers dance with their idol at summer festival

TWO super-talented Oxfordshire youngsters were among six lucky dancers to show off their moves on stage alongside superstar Justin Bieber at a major music festival recently.

Massive Bieber fans Chelsea Cox, 12 from Oxford, and Esme Edwards-Prout, 11 from Bicester, were left starstruck as they danced with their hero in front of 70,000 people at the British Summer Time festival on Sunday last week.

Ellisha Peart, who has run Blackbird Leys dance school Messy Jam for 11 years, said she was 'genuinely shocked' when the pair were selected as two of the six performers ahead of thousands of other submissions.

The duo, who were told four days before the gig that they had been selected to dance on stage alongside the 23-year-old superstar singer, performed their routine to Children, a song from his latest record Purpose.

Miss Peart said: "I am super proud of them. They handled themselves as true professionals – it brings a tear to my eye.

"Everyone was ecstatic – the girls were smiling like Cheshire cats.

"I hope these opportunities keep coming."

She described the group of six dancers – all aged between nine and 13 – as 'such a nice little group'.

The dancers didn't meet Bieber until he was on stage – but he gave all them a hug after the song.

A dance troupe from Messy Jam called Elite Squad Royalz made the semi-final of last year's Britain's Got Talent competition.

Chelsea gets a hug from Justin on stage

Millions for roads' upgrade

By George Welch

THE government has reconfirmed its commitment to invest in transport projects in Oxfordshire.

Millions of pounds will be spent upgrading roads to form the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, improving the A34, and extending the east-west rail line.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling reconfirmed the government's pledge last week as part of its new transport investment strategy.

Other local roads are also set to receive more investment after Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) was given a share from a national roads fund. Details of the exact proportion of money to be allocated and the type of roads eligible for funding are yet to be confirmed.

Bev Hindle, strategic director for communities at the county council, welcomed the government's reconfirmation.

He said: "We [OCC] will continue to talk to government and partners about the county's transport infrastructure strategy to ensure the needs of future generations who live, work or travel through Oxfordshire can be met and planned for.

"Getting transport spending right is absolutely crucial. We already know that existing funding will not deliver the scale of infrastructure investment required which is why we will work together to explore alternative sources of funding."

The county council is working with eight other local authorities – Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – to improve east-west connectivity.

A government study last August warned that failing to build the expressway, also known as the 'brain belt', could choke the UK's economic growth.

Impartial infrastructure advisors, the National Infrastructure Commission, said in November 2016 that the government should seize a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to build the new transport links between Oxford and Cambridge.

The following month the Department for Transport estimated that the new road could cost up to £3.5billion.

Leader of OCC Cllr Ian Hudspeth told the Guardian in November: "We (OCC) have long argued that East West Rail and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway can be a catalyst to bring the region together to deliver the housing that is required in the region as well as the connectivity it will need."

News Bites

Climb every hill

S OXON: An Everest avalanche survivor will be coming to Oxfordshire as part of an epic challenge.

International explorer Alex Staniforth will be climbing White Horse Hill tomorrow as part of an incredible journey where he will be walking and cycling up the highest peaks in all 100 counties of the country to raise money and awareness for Young Minds UK.

The 22-year-old from Cheshire finishes his 'Climb the UK' challenge on July 23 having covered over 5,000 miles in 72 days, and has so far raised more than £14,000. He is just £6,000 away from his target.

Alex has survived a long battle with mental health issues. He said he has sustained injuries on both his knees, making it tougher to motivate himself.

To donate, visit justgiving.com/fundraising/climbtheuk.

Failed grab

BAMPTON: A group of people attempted to pull a cash machine out of a Co-op.

Police are looking for information following an incident on June 30 in Market Square, Bampton, at around 4am.

A number of offenders used a stolen Ford Transit van to smash the front doors of the Co-op open.

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Holding out for some heroes

IRONMAN, Spiderman, and 'heroes' closer to home all graced Witney with their presence over the weekend.

Heroes and villains assembled for the town's carnival as thousands took part in the themed procession and spectated the event on a sun-drenched day on Saturday.

The carnival, organised by the Rotary Club, kicked off with the procession from the Leys at 11am.

The parade passed through the town, where there were performances to watch and stalls to browse.

Although there were a few Hollywood-worthy comic book appearances, local community heroes also got a chance to take part – Farmhouse Nursery School firefighter heroes was one of them.

West Witney Primary School also participated.

One lucky driver also got the chance to take the Batmobile, which got a lot of attention, out for a spin.

There were plenty of refreshments with a barbecue, hog roast, beer tent, Pimm's and Prosecco bar, tea, cakes and ice cream to keep everyone's energy up.

The bouncy castle, mini fair and Smiley train kept the children entertained.

The dogs also got a slice of the action, by putting on star performances at the dog show.

Brian Wright, chairman of the organising committee, said: "The carnival is jointly organised by the local service clubs and all the profit from the event goes straight back into the local community helping local charities.

"I was delighted by the numbers attending. There must have been about 10,000 during the course of the day.

"And everybody was clearly having a great time.

"We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors."

The carnival has been a staple for the town since 1928.

Top, some superheroes on the march; above, also marching were local groups, and thrills in the Batmobile

'Rethink homes vs jobs plan, says green group

By Eva Astreinidou

CAMPAIGNERS vying to protect Oxford's green belt are urging the city council to rethink its policies.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is challenging the council following the recently published draft Local Plan for Oxford, saying that housing need should be prioritised over more jobs to avoid development 'stretching out' onto green belt land.

Responding to the publication of the draft Local Plan, CPRE Oxfordshire's director Helen Marshall said: "We are calling on the city council to re-think its priorities, working to improve rather than exacerbate the jobs versus housing balance and setting high density targets that would enable it to meet its housing needs without stretching out over the green belt."

CPRE objects strongly to the council's proposal to build on eight green belt sites around the city, leading to huge urban sprawl in north Oxford.

It says each of the eight sites meets most the purposes of green belts, which preserve the setting of historic towns, and urges the council to remove these sites from the Local Plan.

The eight sites identified for development were considered in the Oxford green belt study in October 2015.

A representative from Oxford City Council said: "The green belt site releases proposed represent less than two per cent of the designated green belt within the council's administrative area and the proposals to release them have followed a robust process of examination and review.

"The council welcomes all feedback on this stage of the new local plan and will be considering all representations received during the consultation."

Following the release of the Local Plan, Alex Hollingsworth, board member for planning and regulatory services, said the council would continue to support the city centre and district centres as the most sustainable locations for new development.

He added: "Another key aim is to use the planning system to reduce air pollution, shift journeys to sustainable transport, and reduce the need for journeys by putting homes, jobs and facilities close to one another."

To view the Local Plan, go to tinyurl.com/gnoa8dl.

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Weight loss spurs runner to 100km

A MAN who was morbidly obese and was 'teased and mocked' decided to turn his life around by becoming a runner and will take part in an epic 24-hour 100km race.

Andy Vanderberg, 30, from Oxford, will run the Dixons Carphone Race to the Stones on Saturday, and has set himself the challenge of running a total of 26 marathons this year.

Andy, who weighed 308lbs and lost 90lbs after taking up running, will be racing along the Ridgeway from Lewknor in Oxfordshire to the Avebury Stone Circle.

Speaking of the epic challenge, he said: "I was not an ideal running body size, but I never saw anyone my size running, so I figured it would be the best way to lose the weight.

"A lot of people laughed because I was so big, but I was determined to become a runner."

"Mentally I have the mindset that I can do anything. Losing that amount of weight changes the way you think."

Andy today

Couple banned for leaving dog to starve

A HUSBAND and wife have been disqualified from keeping dogs for 10 years after their dog was left to starve.

Barney and Jemma Bloom, of Hudson Street, Bicester, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a crossbreed dog called Hooch when they appeared before magistrates in Oxford in a prosecution brought by the RSPCA.

Mr Bloom, 37, was given an immediate 12-week custodial sentence and Mrs Bloom, 32, was given an eight-week custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months.

Mrs Bloom was handed a community order which means she must remain at home between 8pm and 6am for a month. Both were fined £150.

Hooch was found without food and water in a squalid outhouse at the couple's home after the police contacted the RSPCA with concerns for the dog's wellbeing.

RSPCA inspector Lauren Bailey, who investigated, said: "When I first saw Hooch he was at the police station and I was moved by how loving he was.

"He was so skinny, dirty, and neglected but had so much time for everyone he met.

"It was heartbreaking to see a dog that had not been shown any love himself still offer love unconditionally to others."

Hooch initially recovered while in the care of the RSPCA but had to be put to sleep because of medical issues.

Shopping tour for residents

By Eva Astreinidou

RESIDENTS of a 3,300-home development were treated to a VIP tour of a new shopping village that will be on their doorstep.

Regional contractor Stepnell offered the Great Western Park Residents' Association (GWPRA) the chance to see first-hand the new £5.25m residential shopping centre that will be completed next summer.

The tour of the district centre included a viewing of the new Asda superstore under construction, and two three-storey apartment schemes that will provide 20 new homes with shopping and commercial units on the ground floor.

Stepnell is also building a single-storey, two-unit retail space as part of Great Western Park's new community hub.

Andy Brian, Stepnell senior site manager, said: "It was a great pleasure to meet local residents, answer their questions about the construction of this fantastic new 'village' development and give them a VIP tour of the project.

"The scheme is really starting to take shape now and we're delighted with the progress we've been able to make.

"It won't be too long before we'll be able to give local residents a sneak preview of the building interiors."

The GWPRA committee said: "It was good for our residents to be able to get a sense of how it will look and the types of shops and services we will have on our doorstep."

With an expected finish in 2022, Great Western Park will provide a primary and secondary school, a university technical college, a pub, community centre, sports pitches and a children's day nursery.

Top from left to right, David Brignall, GWPRA vice chair; Natalie Hudson, GWPRA secretary; Jack Strong, assistant site manager, Stepnell; Andy Brain, senior site manager, Stepnell, and Dave Roberts, boundary park sports association rep for GWPRA. Above, the new residential and retail block

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THE OXFORD PAPER and Oxfordshire Guardian
Charity of the year 2017
Play2Give

Tears as Andy is rewarded

Michael Underwood, Andy Baker and Jo Garner from Lime MCP

By George Welch

THE inspiring founder of our charity of the year said he is still coming to terms with being awarded a national honour for raising thousands of pounds for charity.

Play2Give's (P2G) Andy Baker admitted to being 'choked up' on stage when he received his British Citizen Award (BCA) at the Palace of Westminster last Thursday.

The 29-year-old from Didcot, who has lived with a brain injury since birth, has fundraised tirelessly since he was a 14-year-old pupil at Didcot's St Birinus School.

Fifteen years on and he has helped raise more than £70,000.

An emotional Andy, one of 30 to receive a BCA, said he would remember the 'incredible, amazing and uplifting day' forever.

He said: "It will be a day that me and my guests will never forget. For me, it's a day I'll remember and treasure.

"To win my first national award in 15 years feels really special, and I feel really happy, overjoyed, and proud – there's not enough words really to describe it."

Andy established P2G in 2007 to support the hospital and brain injury charity Headway Oxfordshire – and the fundraising group has gone from strength to strength.

Since then, he has raised more than £57,000 for the Oxford Children's Hospital alone as a gesture of thanks for the care and support he has received from them over the years, especially following major brain surgery he endured aged 12.

Andy added: "I felt really humbled to be given such a high honour as the BCA, it still feels like a dream.

"It was great to meet and chat with so many of the other medallists, and to say it was an emotional day is an understatement."

Former CBBC presenter Michael Underwood presented a slightly starstruck Andy with his award. Andy said: "I got really choked up on stage and was lost for words in tears when Michael spoke to me."

Andy was nominated by friend Linda Latter, who has previously said: "Andy is a true, genuine young man with a real heart of gold, which is very rare to find these days and he doesn't ever let life get him down.

"He lives life to the full and is the life and soul of the party despite his condition.

"His perseverance, unwavering enthusiasm, relentless commitment and his infectious character makes him so well loved by his friends and family."

Driving a dream

THE dreams of one of Oxford's keenest young bus enthusiasts came true as he enjoyed a memorable day behind the scenes at one of the county's largest bus firms.

Fourteen-year-old Ciaran Bird, above, who has developed an impressive wealth of bus knowledge and paraphernalia over the last 12 years, experienced a day like none other at the Oxford Bus Company depot in Cowley.

The Woodstock youngster relished the opportunity to take in all aspects of the business, including the engineering workshops, the CCTV room and the operations department.

The most exciting part came at the end of the day when he drove a bus under the supervision of an instructor.

Of the day, the Marlborough School pupil and young Scout leader said: "It was a great experience to be with real bus drivers, seeing what they look like and doing what they do."

He added: "This was a really incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The secondary school pupil has long-been obsessed with buses after a visit to the Oxford Bus Museum in Long Hanborough as a two-year-old.

As a result, he has developed an infectious enthusiasm for anything and everything bus-related.

Andy Morison, commercial manager of Oxford Bus Company, said "It's fantastic to see young people getting excited about public transport. "

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News Bites

Two cars collide

OXON: Police are appealing for witnesses after a man suspected of driving a stolen car crashed into another car.

The stolen white VW Golf was being pursued by police at the time and had left the M40 motorway and was travelling on the A361, near to the Chacombe turn-off, when he collided with a Ford Focus car.

The driver of the Focus, a 77-year-old man, suffered head and hand injuries and was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital by ambulance. The Golf was in a minor collision with another vehicle prior to the incident but there were no other reported injuries.

The driver of the Golf, a 24-year-old man from Birmingham, was been arrested on suspicion of theft of a motor vehicle, failing to stop and dangerous driving.

Call 101 with information.

Forward fun

OXON: Oxfordshire's employment and wellbeing support service for adults with a disability, OxForward, is celebrating national Employability Day by hosting a community tea party.

It takes place tomorrow from 1pm to 4pm at Wolvercote Young People's Club, in St Peter's Road. There will be activities, competitions and other entertainment.

The *WOW* factor has pupils walking

By Samantha McGregor

PRIMARY schools in north Oxfordshire are being urged to join a new walk to school initiative aimed at changing habits for life.

Four schools have signed up so far for the free Walk to School health campaign funded by Oxfordshire County Council.

These include St Mary's Primary School in Banbury, North Hinksey Primary School, Southwold Primary School in Bicester, and Christopher Rawlins Primary in Adderbury.

Called the WOW challenge, it is run by charity Living Streets and encourages children to log their daily journeys to school and develop a healthy habit for a lifetime. If children walk to work for a week each month they receive a badge.

The council has pledged to fund 20 schools – WOW usually costs £1.50 per pupil. Schools are being urged to sign up for the scheme by July 21 so they are all set to get walking once the new academic term starts in September.

County council cabinet member for public health and education, Hilary Hibbert-Biles, said: "This is a great scheme which reduces congestion outside the school gates and creates healthy habits for a lifetime."

Chesterton Primary School took part in Living Streets' Walk to School Week challenge in May and saw reduced traffic outside the school and reported there was 'real engagement from parents and pupils'.

Headteacher Iain Horner also left his car at home and walked 14 miles to work one morning.

He said: "In addition to the obvious environmental and traffic benefits, we feel that taking part gave families and children some quality time together and, for the ones arriving from further afield, a bit of an adventure."

All schools that take part receive 11 badges for each pupil, a 'travel tracker' whiteboard for children to record their journeys, and guides for teachers.

Further funding is available from the Bicester Healthy New Town programme for schools in the area.

Kevin Croasdale, commercial manager of Living Streets, said: "It is simple and easy for schools to run, and just a few minutes of a teacher's day is all it takes to make a big difference."

This year's badge theme is Walk the Americas, taking youngsters from the top of North America to the tip of South America.

For more information, contact Kevin Croasdale on 0207 377 4908, or email kevin.croasdale@livingstreets.org.uk

Chesterton pupils give a thumbs-up to the WOW initiative

Get fitter and enjoy the green spaces Bicester offers

BICESTER residents are being challenged to get fitter this summer by taking part in a green spaces competition.

Individuals and families can take part in a free contest to win a Fitbit or family swimming pass for Bicester Leisure Centre.

The idea is to get people to explore green spaces around the town. To enter the competition, residents will have to visit all the 11 green spaces marked on a flyer distributed in Bicester over the summer.

When they visit people need to do some form of exercise such as walking, skipping, jogging, playing or using an outdoor gym and take a picture of themselves and posting it on social media sites Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #HealthyBicester.

Residents have until September 4 to complete the challenge.

Cllr Barry Wood, leader of Cherwell District Council, said: "Through this challenge, we are calling for more people to explore the many green spaces in Bicester and have fun outside.

"Bicester has got a lot of nice footpaths, playgrounds, open spaces and outdoor gym equipment. We want Bicester residents to be aware of what is on hand for them."

Everyone who completes the challenge will win a Healthy Bicester mug. For more information, email healthynewtown@cherwell-dc.gov.uk.

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Finding 'the good life' in later years

An interview with Janice and Michael Dunning

We all want to live the good life; enjoy country living, meals with friends, relaxing walks, stopping to say the customary "hello, how are you; how are the kids?" to everyone you meet. This would seem paradise to most, but how often does it happen? Well a move to a Richmond Village might find it happening a lot more often.

I recently met with Janice and Michael Dunning who talked me through their move to a Village Suite at a Richmond Retirement Village.

"We were looking to downsize from our large family home as we were finding both the house and the garden hard to manage," explains Mrs Dunning. "Richmond Villages was the logical choice.

A wonderful apartment with hotel-style living along with second to none facilities.

Learning that the retirement village had its very own driver and vehicles was another great attraction as Mike had given up driving due to his eyesight and I have never driven."

Recent health issues had troubled Mr Dunning, so knowing that there was a care team on site 24-hours a day was another reason for the move.

Or as he puts it; "My body is a bit like a Lancia; bloomin' great, it's just that bits keep falling off at inappropriate times, and one just can't get the parts these days!"

"We looked at lots of different options but none of them provided the services or facilities we were really after. We then came across Richmond Villages which had the perfect solution for now and, heaven forbid, the reassurance that should we need more help in the future, they could provide it." Continued Mrs Dunning.

"It's the simple little things that make a difference. On the first day they asked us what paper we read, so now we get it delivered to our door every day."

Mrs Dunning finishes by saying; "I am happy that we relocated. We have made lots of new friends who we meet up with regularly, either for a coffee or for a meal in the restaurant. There is a real sense of community living here. Having expert care and support on hand has been wonderful. Beforehand I was looking after Mike, but I knew that I couldn't give him the help that he really needed."

The Dunnings have been living in a Richmond Village Suite for over a year now. These are one or two bedroom apartments, purchased on a leasehold basis and come with a package that includes all meals, housekeeping and laundry. Regularly known as 'Assisted Living', it is designed so that you can live independently with the peace of mind that support is available if required.

Mr Dunning adds; "When you are young you have the inclination to do things, but not the time and money as most of that is taken up by working. However, when you are older you have the time and money, but not the health or inclination to do all the things that you wanted. By moving to a Richmond Retirement Village we now have more friends around us than we did before as well as the ability to do more. A group of us play bowls every week. I go to Tai Chi class every morning at the on-site Wellness Spa while Jan swims in the pool. With the regular scheduled trips into town we can catch up with our friends outside of the retirement village, go to the cinema or try a different restaurant."

So, if you are looking for a bit of the good life, why not visit a Richmond Village and see what life could be like.

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Hailing clean air with cab charge points

By Eva Astreinidou

A HALF-A-MILLION pound investment to install electric vehicle charging points for hackney cabs and set an age limit on old cabs will be set out in Oxford to reduce the 'illegal levels' of air pollution.

The city council has announced plans to install 19 charging points by 2019 and phase out older, high-emitting hackney cabs from the city.

The £500,000 investment will mean a close co-operation with COLTA (City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association) to carry out the scheme.

The first seven charging points will be installed in 2018, and the remaining 12 in 2019.

Cllr John Tanner, executive board member for a clean and green Oxford, said Oxford city is working with the county council to introduce a zero emission zone from 2020, which will restrict access to the city centre for emitting vehicles.

He said: "Oxford has illegal levels of air pollution in some parts of the city, which is affecting the health of residents. Every vehicle in Oxford is contributing to this major public health emergency.

"[The] Zero Emission Zone will go a long way to getting air pollution below legal limits."

Latest air pollution data for Oxford indicates that, despite a 36.9 per cent drop in city centre air pollution over the last decade, nitrogen dioxide levels are sticking above the legal and safe levels in some city centre streets.

A 2016 study by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health found that outdoor air pollution causes about 40,000 deaths in the UK every year.

The locations for the charging points will be finalised following consultation with drivers, but potential locations include Oxford Rail Station, Gloucester Green, London Road, Cowley Road, St Giles, Summertown car park, and Redbridge and Seacourt park and rides.

It is estimated that new electric cabs could save £2,800 a year in fuel costs.

Pictures: MOD/Crown copyright

Trio of helicopters show unity of services

HELICOPTERS from Oxfordshire's ambulance, police and RAF soared in unison across the county skies in a celebration of unity between the three services.

An air ambulance, police helicopter and RAF chopper, which all operate from RAF Benson, flew a circuit around the local area on Thursday last week.

The special event, a first for the south Oxfordshire base, included a flypast of the Airbus Helicopters UK HQ at Oxford Airport in Kidlington.

Group captain Hamish Cormack said: "We work in such close proximity to our National Police Air Service and Thames Valley Air Ambulance colleagues on a daily basis that it's imperative we work effectively as a team.

"While we perform different roles, essentially we all do the same thing: delivering helicopter support where it is needed the most.

"It was fantastic to see the three aircraft flying together to celebrate our team work and to reinforce the Team Benson spirit."

The RAF Puma HC Mk2, flown by the Puma Force currently operating in Afghanistan, was joined in the Oxfordshire skies by the Airbus EC135 of the National Police Air Service and Thames Valley Air Ambulance's Airbus H135.

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Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

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Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

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Gardeners' Questions

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THIS WEEK'S JOB

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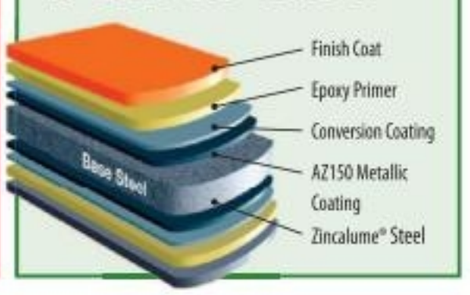

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COLOUR FENCE

Good progress for academy in subjects and leadership

By Samantha McGregor

A BICESTER secondary school has retained its "good" status after an inspection by Ofsted.

The Cooper School, in Churchill Road, 'impressed' inspectors with its 'calm and purposeful atmosphere' and 'strong relationships' between pupils and staff.

Since it was given the good rating in 2013, the school has formed Bicester Learning Academy, which is partnered with Glory Farm School.

In her report, Ofsted inspector Paula Sargent praised the management team and teachers and said pupils made 'good progress'.

Since the last inspection, strategies had been implemented to improve pupils' maths and English. Better systems are now in place to track pupils' attendance and to provide support for those who find it difficult to come to school.

However its safeguarding and pupil welfare were "a strength" of the school, the report said.

The report said the next step for the school was to ensure the more able students tackle more challenging work and make 'faster' progress and use strategies in place to help pupils improve their work, knowledge and skills.

Ms Sargent said the school was 'driven by a desire to raise the aspirations' of all pupils.

She said: "The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.

"There is a caring, nurturing and inclusive ethos that permeates the school.

"Inspectors were impressed by the calm and purposeful atmosphere and the strong relationships between staff and pupils and among pupils themselves.

"As a result, pupils are keen to learn and make good progress from their starting points. Pupils have great confidence in their teachers and very much value what staff do."

Arson attack sees hay bales set alight at Bure Park Nature Reserve

The fire from a distance, left, and, above, a firefighter tackles the blazing bale. Pictures: Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE crews tackled a blaze at Bure Park Nature Reserve in the latest of a spate of arson attacks.

Firefighters from Bicester were on the scene on Monday at 4pm after bales were set on fire.

In a statement posted online, firefighters said they are working with Thames Valley Police following the incidents.

They added: "Unfortunately incidents like this cause fire appliances to be unavailable for other incidents whilst tied up dealing with these mindless incidents, and cause damage to crops and can also spread easily, damaging large areas."

News Bites

Kitchen fire

BANBURY: A man and his daughter were given first aid after escaping from their smoke-logged flat in Alma Road.

The flat had a smoke alarm but it did not go off when the fire started in the kitchen. Incident commander Steve Potter said they were 'extremely lucky' to have been woken by the smell of burning .

Pub in the Park

BICESTER: Three organisations have joined forces to stage an inaugural Pub in the Park.

Bicester Round Table, Bicester's Big Lunch Team and Bicester's Ladies Circle will stage the event in Garth Park on Saturday, August 12, from 4pm. There will be live music, food and a range of ale. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children £5. Go to pubinthepark bicester.org.uk.

Health assurance

BANBURY: MP Victoria Prentis has asked the Secretary of State for Health to reassure residents over accreditation for anaesthetic training at Banbury's Horton Hospital.

She raised concerns that 'decisions such as the one by a medical dean to remove accreditation for anaesthetic training will not lead to the closure of A&E departments'.

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Competition

WIN tickets to Retro Festival

THIS years Retro Festival on the 11/12/13th August at Newbury Show Ground is going to be the biggest and best yet.

The Retro Festival is a celebration of all things vintage from the 1920's right through to the 1980's.

In this amazing competition we are giving away 4 sets of family day tickets to the day of your choice. The vast Newbury Show Ground will be crammed with attractions, eye-catching displays, over 1,000 classic vehicles from classic cars, motorbikes, scooters, caravans, hot rods, military vehicles, steam engines and aircraft. Many of the steam engines will also be providing rides for visitors. For anyone interested in the military there will be a 1940's Post D-Day re-enactment portraying the Fighting Echelon of the 5th Wiltshire Regiment in Normandy 1944, with a display of weapons and vehicles.

There are 200 vintage stalls (the largest collection in the UK) where you can buy anything your heart desires from the eras. Children (and adults) will be able to while away the hours in safe friendly surroundings at the largest vintage fairground in the UK.

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Closing date:
Monday, July 31, 2017

There is a full weekend of live acts and DJ's playing music in three distinct marquees.
Tickets available on the day:Adult Day Pass Saturday £25, Sunday £20
Friday and Saturday Evenings £10 each
Children under 11 go FREE
Cheaper tickets available by pre booking through the website **www.retrofestival.co.uk**

The Full Line up is as follows:-

Friday
Sizzlin' Jim
Swingout Swindon
The Swing Commanders
The Downtown Daddyos
Rockin' the Joint
The Ali Mac Band
Uptown Traffic

Opening Times:
Friday
5pm - 11pm
Saturday
10am - 11pm
Sunday
10am - 10.30pm

Saturday
Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band
The Signatures Northern Soul Band with special guest the legendary Tommy Hunt
Serious Chord Squad
Get Ready
Adam Hoffman
My Favourite Things
JiveSwing
The Spitfire Fashion Show
Ding Dong Daddios
The Spitfire Cabaret
Rebel Dean and the Star Cats
The Strollers
Shane and the Korrados
The Blazin' Aces
Rock 'n' Roll Classes with JiveRevive

Sunday
The Jake Leg Jug Band
My Favourite Things
The Bowkers
Fiona Paige and The Paige Boys
The Rock-A-Toons
Richie and the Rockets
Rockin 'em
Shakin' A Round
Rock 'n' Roll Classes with JiveRevive
The Fliks
The Crooked 4th
The Ska Faces
The Highwasters

WIN TICKETS!

To enter our great competition to win 4 family days passes to the day of your choice, just answer the following simple question

Q: Where will the 2017 Retro Festival be held this August?

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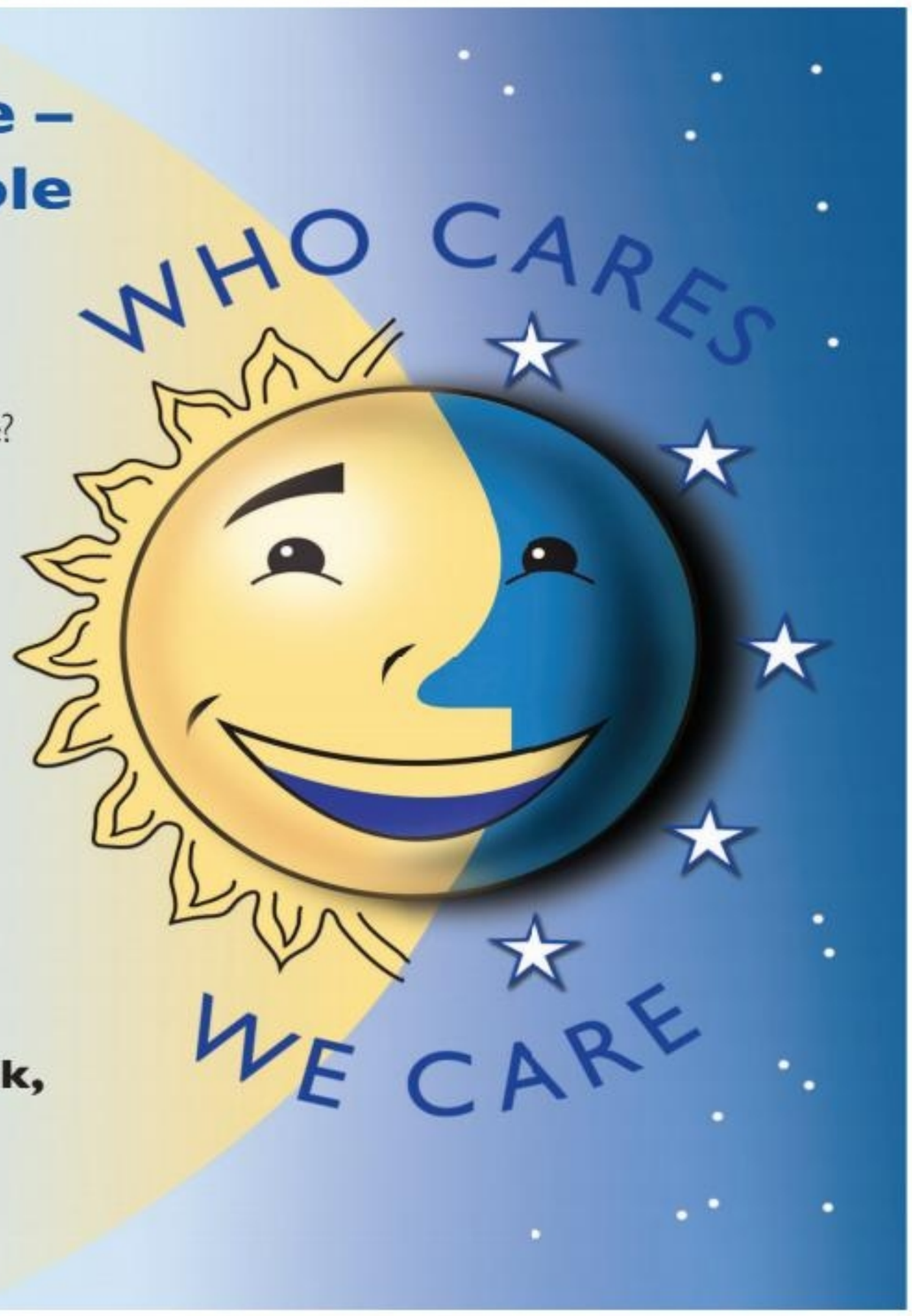

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Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Handcart (6)
7 Bitter repentance (7)
8 Hug (7)
9 Female relative (5)
10 Twisted (9)
12 Coal distillate (3)
13 Groups (4)
15 A chemical element (7)
17 Maiden (4)
19 Wholly (3)
21 Meddle (9)
22 Dislikes (5)
23 Lewd (7)
24 Sure (7)
25 Happily (6)

Quick Clues Down

1 Producing young (8)
2 Strong (6)
3 Speakers (7)
4 Correct (5)
5 Chill (6)
6 No more than (4)
7 Reparation (11)
11 Appendage (4)
13 Identity (4)
14 Strictly (8)
16 Sunshade (7)
18 Sharp reply (6)
20 Myth (6)
21 Moslem religion (5)
22 Wine (4)

Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Shown compassion and heard to be scarred (6)
7 The supporters don't come forward (7)
8 Narcotic effect of Southernwood? (7)
9 Strict US soldier gets cut free (5)
10 Arrogant little devil will hesitate to take on debts (9)
12 Lose strength as 17 does endlessly (3)
13 Somehow robs the globes (4)
15 Thus putting to a purpose a thorough drenching (7)
17 Wise man in the garden (4)
19 It's taken from mine (3)
21 Craft intended, we hear, to go south for consignments (9)
22 They always wear wool next to the skin (5)
23 Steals a little sleep? (7)
24 Minus? (7)
25 Climbs the ranges (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Time to go out for recreation (8)
2 They are tricky to play (6)
3 Set me up at the bar and try prohibition (7)
4 They are over-wound (5)
5 One without a proverbial choice (6)
6 Employed in the house-decorating trade (4)
7 Very useful for a spell of air travel (11)
11 The rest (of the letters by the sound of it) (4)
13 Man-eating monster might well gore you (4)
14 Lives for the bus returning to my young sister up the road (8)
16 Wandering Dominican doesn't get in (7)
18 They are for putting balls on (6)
20 Necessitate coming in late (6)
21 Light fall? (5)
22 Bright boys presumably (4)

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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

4	6	2	1					
		3			4	7		8
5				9	2		4	
		4		1			8	2
		6	9		3	5		
1	9			4		6		
	2		6	3				9
7		1	8			2		
					7	8	5	1

9		7				2		5
	8						6	
	3		9		7		8	
		6		4		1		
	2		5		6		4	
		8		2		5		
	1		3		9		7	
	5						1	
6		4				3		9

7				1				
2		8						
5	1				3			
		3	2			6	7	
	9		5		4		8	
	7	1			8	5		
			4				5	6
						9		8
				6				2

This week's solutions

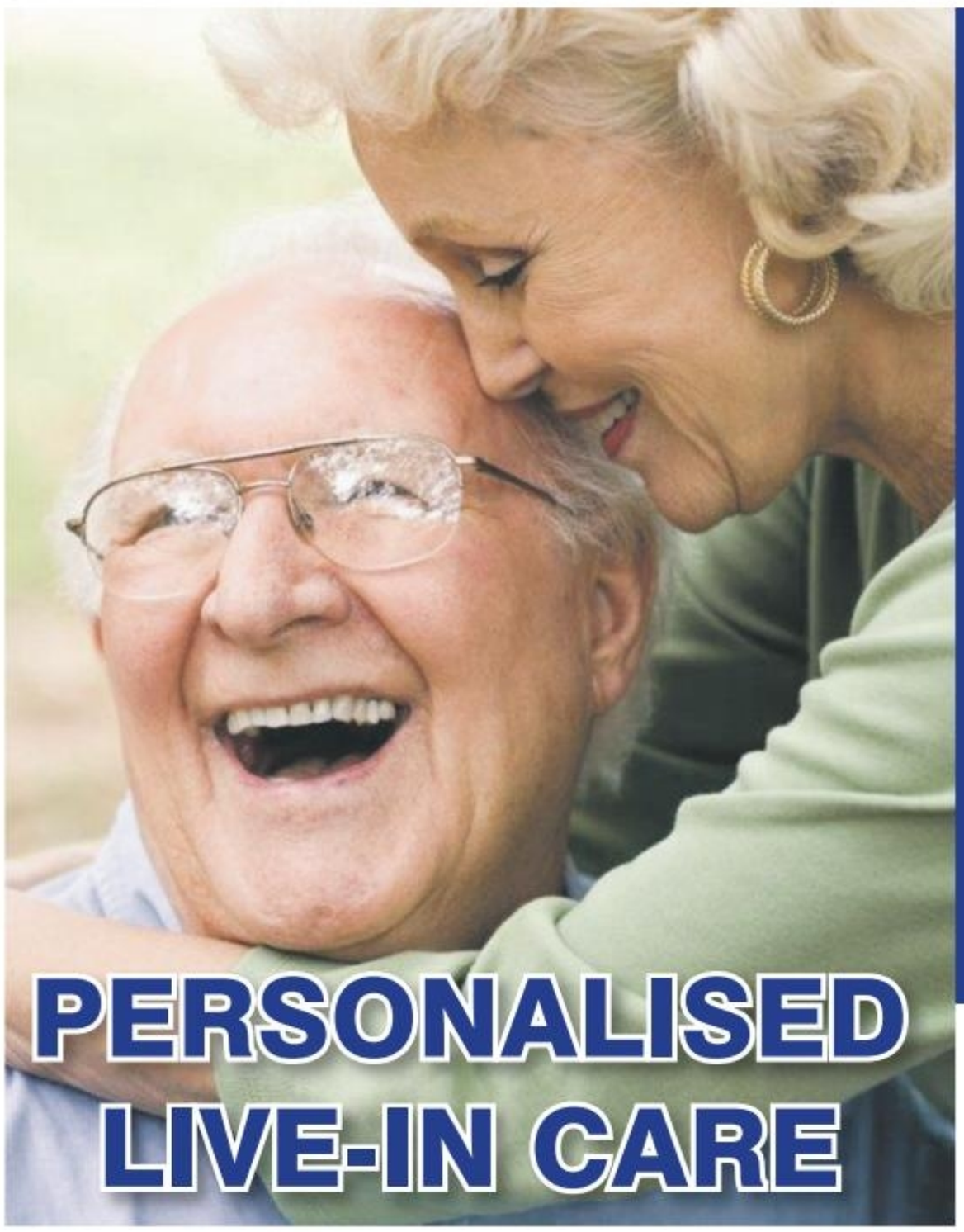
9	1	7	3	6	5	2	8	4
4	8	5	7	2	1	9	6	3
6	3	2	9	8	4	7	5	1
3	6	9	5	4	8	1	2	7
8	2	5	6	1	7	4	3	9
1	7	4	2	9	3	8	6	5
5	9	3	8	7	2	6	4	1
2	4	8	1	3	6	5	9	7
7	5	1	4	5	9	3	1	2

9	3	5	1	2	4	8	7	6
4	8	1	3	5	9	6	2	7
2	3	9	5	6	7	4	8	1
5	9	6	7	4	8	1	2	3
8	1	2	3	5	9	6	7	4
7	4	8	1	2	3	5	9	6
1	2	3	5	9	6	7	4	8
3	5	9	6	8	4	2	1	7
6	7	4	8	1	2	3	5	9

4	6	2	1	7	8	3	9	5
9	1	3	5	6	4	7	2	8
5	8	7	3	9	2	1	4	6
3	5	4	7	1	6	9	8	2
8	2	5	6	3	1	4	7	9
1	9	8	2	4	5	6	3	7
2	7	6	9	8	3	5	1	4
7	4	1	8	5	9	2	6	3
6	3	9	4	2	7	8	5	1

Quick Crossword
Across: 1 Barrow 7 Remorse 8 Embrace 9 Niece 10 Distorted 12 Tar 13 Sets 15 Isotope 17 Girl 19 All 21 Interfere 22 Hates 23 Obscene 24 Certain 25 Gladly
Down: 1 Breeding 2 Robust 3 Orators 4 Amend Freeze 6 Mere 7 Restitution 11 Tail 13 Self 14 Severely 16 Parasol 18 Retort 20 Legend 21 Islam. 22 Hook

Cryptic Crossword
Across: 1 Filled 7 Backers 8 Slumber 9 Rigid 10 Imperious 12 Sag 13 Orbs 15 Sousing 17 Sage 19 Ore 21 Shipments 22 Sheep 23 Kidnaps 24 Nonplus 25 Scales
Down: 1 Pastimes 2 Trumps 3 Embargo 4 Scars 5 Beggar 6 Used 7 Broomsticks 11 Ease 13 Ogre 14 Subsists 16 Nomadic 18 Greens 20 Entail 21 Spill 22 Sons



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Saturday July 15th

DAYTIME

BBC1

Pitch Battle, 7.30pm

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live** (S) **11.30 Mary Berry Cooks** (S)(R) **12.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 Wimbledon 2017** Sue Barker presents coverage of the ladies' singles final. (S) **6.25 BBC News** (S) **6.35 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.45 Pointless Celebrities** Various stars from the soap world take part in the unorthodox quiz show. (S)(R)

7

7.30 Pitch Battle Mel Giedroyc presents the fifth heat of the choral contest. Postponed from Saturday 8th July. (S)

8

9

9.00 Casualty Part one of two. Iain spots a chance to bring Scott to justice after Mickey is injured and brought to the ED. (S)
9.50 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)

10

10.10 FILM Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995) (15) Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis, Samuel L Jackson and Jeremy Irons. (S)

11

AFTER 12

12.10 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **12.15** BBC News (S)

BBC2

Today at Wimbledon, 8pm

8.05 FILM A Walk in the Sun (1945) (12) (S) **10.00 Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape** (S)(R) **11.00 Wimbledon Wheelchair Finals** (S) **12.30 Hairy Bikers' Best of British** (S)(R) **1.15 FILM Forbidden Planet (1956) (U)** (S) **2.55 Wanted Down Under** (S)(R) **3.40 Natural World: Tiger Island** (S)(R) **4.40 Flog It!** (S)(R) **5.25 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **6.25 Wimbledon 2017** (S)

8.00 Today at Wimbledon Clare Balding presents highlights of the day's play, where the ladies' singles final was the main attraction on Centre Court. (S)

9.00 Imagine: Chris Ofili – The Caged Bird's Song Alan Yentob catches up with Turner Prize-winning painter Chris Ofili. (S)

10.00 Mock the Week Quiz show, with Dara O Briain. (S)(R)
10.30 QI XL With guests Cariad Lloyd, Dermot O'Leary and Phill Jupitus. (S)

11.15 Live at the Apollo Stand-up comedy with Josh Widdicombe, Nathan Caton and Celia Pacquola. (S)(R)
11.45 Golf: Scottish Open (S)

12.45 FILM Salvage (2009) (18) Horror, starring Neve McIntosh. (S)
2.00 This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Catchphrase, 6.45pm

6.00 CITV 8.25 ITV News (S) **8.30 Weekend** (S) **9.25 The Voice Kids** (S)(R) **10.50 FILM Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004) (PG)** (S) **1.25 ITV News;** Weather (S) **1.35 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket** (S) **5.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs** (S)(R) **5.30 Little Big Shots USA** (S) **6.25 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.35 ITV News** (S) **6.45 Catchphrase** (S)

7.30 The Voice Kids Semi-Final The 12 remaining contestants enter the semi-finals. (S)

9.30 ITV News; Weather (S)
9.45 FILM Inception (2010) (12) Premiere. Sci-fi thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Ellen Page. (S)

12.30 The Chase (S)(R) **1.25** Jackpot247 **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen**

Channel 4

World Para Athletics Championships London 2017, 7pm

8.50 F1 Meets Claire Williams (S)(R) **9.20 F1 Meets Toto Wolff** (S)(R) **9.55 Formula 1 British Grand Prix Practice 3** (S) **11.25 F1 Meets Nigel Mansell** (S) **11.55 Formula 1 British Grand Prix Qualifying Live** (S) **2.30 World's Most Expensive Cars** (S) **3.30 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun** (S)(R) **4.35 Big House, Little House** (S) **5.35 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 World Para Athletics Championships London 2017 Coverage of the evening session on day two of the Championships. (S)

10.00 FILM The Hunger Games (2012) (12) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson. (S)

12.45 Ramsay's Hotel Hell (S)(R) **1.35** 60 Days in Jail (S)(R) **2.25 Hollyoaks** (S) **4.25** Ackley Bridge (S)(R) **5.20** Location, Location, Location (S)(R)

Channel 5

FIA Formula E: New York, 10pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Tokka turns up looking for her child Chompy. (S) **10.5 Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud 2** (S)(R) **11.10 Police Interceptors** Barry Peach outsmarts a disqualified driver. (S)(R) **12.10 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun** (S)(R) **2.05 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** (S)(R) **4.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** (S)(R) **6.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

7.00 Cricket on 5 England v South Africa. Highlights of the second day's play in the Second Test of the four-match series. (S)

8.00 Blind Date Paul O'Grady plays cupid for a 50-year-old Post Office manager from Bournemouth. (S)

9.00 Big Brother Daily round-up of highlights, featuring more games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat, as well as reactions to the latest eviction. (S)

10.00 FIA Formula E: New York The first New York ePrix race. Actio from the first of two races staged at the Brooklyn Street Circuit in New York. (S)

11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera The use of CCTV to tackle shoplifters. (S)(R)

12.00 SuperCasino (S) **3.10 FILM Sniper (1993) (15)** Action thriller, witt Billy Zane. (S) **4.50** Great Artists (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels o Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Emmerdale **8.50** Coronation Street **11.10** Take Me Out **12.20** The Voice Kids **1.50** You've Been Framed! Gold: The Next Generation **2.55** FILM: The Smurfs (2011) (U) Fantasy comedy, starring Neil Patrick Harris. **3.55** FYI Daily **4.00** FILM: The Smurfs (2011) (U) Concluded. **5.00** FILM: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Rupert Everett. **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05** FILM: St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) (PG) Concluded. **7.10** FILM: Gravity (2013) (12) Thriller, starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** FILM: Gravity (2013) (12) Concluded. **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice: Massive Election Special **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** FILM: Scary Movie 4 (2006) (15) Spoof horror sequel, starring Anna Faris. **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20** FILM: Scary Movie 4 (2006) (15) Concluded. **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 George and Mildred **6.25** Murder, She Wrote **8.20** The Darling Buds of May **9.30** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes **11.50** Goodbye Mr Chips **1.55** Wycliffe **3.00** Lewis **5.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Britain's Lost Waterlands: Escape to Swallows and Amazons Country. Presenters Dick Strawbridge and Professor Alice Roberts explore the British landscapes that inspired author Arthur Ransome to write his famous series Swallows and Amazons. **8.00** The Last Seabird Summer? **9.00** I Know Who You Are **11.20** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.55** TOTP2: Boy Bands **12.50** Rollermania: Britain's Biggest Boy Band **1.50** The Richest Songs in the World **3.25** TOTP2: Boy Bands **4.20** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **6.30** Kevin Can Wait **6.55** New Girl **7.25** The Goldbergs **8.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **10.30** How I Met Your Mother **1.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** FILM: 101 Dalmatians (1996) (U) Disney comedy adventure remake, starring Glenn Close. **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Salt (2010) (12) Action thriller, starring Angelina Jolie. **11.00** Gogglebox **1.05** Tattoo Fixers **2.10** Rude Tube: OMFG **3.05** Gogglebox **4.00** New Girl **4.25** How I Met Your Mother **5.10** Rude(ish) Tube

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Food Unwrapped **9.30** The Yorkshire Dales and the Lakes **10.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun **2.45** Come Dine with Me **5.25** Four in a Bed **8.00** The Queen's Mother-in-Law **9.00** Prince Philip: The Plot to Make a King **10.05** It Was Alright in the 1970s **12.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15** Father Ted **1.50** It Was Alright in the 1970s **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Night Passage (1957) (U) Western, starring James Stewart. **1.00** Baggage Claim (2013) (12) Romantic comedy, with Paula Patton. **2.50** Tooth Fairy (2010) (PG) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. **4.50** A League of Their Own (1992) (PG) Baseball comedy drama, starring Geena Davis. **7.20** Men in Black II (2002) (PG) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones. **9.00** X-Men: Days of Future Past (2014) (12) Superhero time travel adventure, starring Hugh Jackman. **11.35** Evil Dead (2013) (18) Horror remake, starring Jane Levy. **1.30** The Duke of Burgundy (2014) (18) Drama, starring Sidse Babett Knudsen and Chiara D'Anna. **3.40** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.00 Home Shopping **7.15** Lizard Lick Towing **7.40** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **8.30** Top Gear **9.30** Brojects **10.30** Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit **11.30** Go 8 Bit: DLC **12.00** The Joy of Techs **1.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race 2017: London **4.00** Top Gear **7.00** Not Going Out **9.00** FILM: Heat (1995) (15) Crime thriller, starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino. **12.35** QI XL **2.30** Mock the Week **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Birds of a Feather **7.45** The Last Detective **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** When the Boat Comes In **5.00** Porridge **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **9.00** Taggart **10.45** Waking the Dead **1.10** Ain't Misbehavin' **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew **8.00** Football's Funniest Moments **8.30** The F1 Show **9.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **2.00** Dogs: An Amazing Animal Family **3.00** It's Me or the Dog **4.30** Modern Family **7.00** Golf's Funniest Moments **8.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **9.00** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 **10.00** Karl Pilkington: The Moaning of Life **11.00** Hawaii Five-0 **12.00** A League of Their Own **1.00** Ross Kemp: Extreme World **2.00** Night Cops **3.00** Most Daring **4.00** It's Me or the Dog **5.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The Guest Wing **8.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **9.00** Storm City **10.00** Fish Town **11.00** FILM: Dinosaur 13 (2014) (PG) The true story of one of history's greatest dinosaur discoveries. **1.00** House **4.00** Without a Trace **9.00** Game of Thrones **12.05** Riviera **1.05** Twin Peaks: The Return **2.15** Nurse Jacki **4.00** Urban Secrets

W SKY: 109

11.40 EastEnders **2.20** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars **5.2** My Family **8.00** One Born Every Minute **9.00** FILM: Election (1999) (15) Satirical comedy, starring Matthe Broderick and Reese Witherspoon. **11.00** Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders **12.00** Louis Theroux: America' Most Dangerous Pets **1.00** MasterChef Australia **2.15** The Strain **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.10 The Piglet Files **8.00** Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em **8.40** Last of the Summer Wine **10.40** Porridge **4.00** Open All Hours **9.20** Mrs Brown's Boys **10.00** Live at the Apollo **11.00** The Young Ones **12.35** Black Books **1.45** The Mighty Boosh **2.50** Garth Marenghi's Darkplace **3.20** The Young Ones **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Live Super Rugby. Sunwolves v Blues (kick-off 4.05am). **6.10** Live Super Rugby. Chiefs v Brumbies (kick-off 6.15am). **8.15** Rugby Gold **8.20** Live Super Rugby. Hurricanes v Crusaders (kick-off 8.35am). **10.3** Live Super Rugby. Force v Waratahs (kick-off 10.45am **12.45** Live Star Sixes Football. Coverage of day three the six-a-side tournament at The O2 in London. **4.15** Live Super Rugby. Sharks v Lions (kick-off 4.15pm). **6.10** Super Rugby Gold **6.15** Football's Greatest Playe **6.45** Premier League Legends **7.15** Live Star Sixes Football. Further coverage of day three of the six-a-side tournament at The O2 in London. **10.30** Formula 1 **11.40** Spanish Football Gold **12.00** Premier League 100 Club **12.30** Star Sixes Football **3.45** Football's Greatest Players **4.45** Football Gold

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Sunday July 16th

DAYTIME

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** The week's talking points. (S) **10.00 Sunday Morning Live** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** Presented by Andrew Neil. (S) **12.15 BBC News;** Weather (S) **12.30 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 Wimbledon 2017** (S) **1.50 Wimbledon 2017** Coverage of the men's singles final. (S) **6.30 BBC News** (S) **6.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S)

7 **7.00 Countryfile** Ellie Harrison visits a Scottish island that is home to the largest puffin colony on Britain's east coast. (S)

8 **8.00 Fake or Fortune?** Fiona Bruce and art experts Philip Mould and Bendor Grosvenor come to the aid of a man who has inherited three paintings. (S)(R)

9 **9.00 Poldark** Ross and Demelza help Dwight to recover from his traumatic imprisonment in France, while George tries to force Morwenna into marriage to further his political ambitions.

10 **10.00 BBC News** (S) **10.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** **10.30 Would I Lie to You?** With Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Phil Wang, Jason Watkins and Adam Woodyatt. (S)(R)

11 **11.00 The Week the Landlords Moved In** (S)(R)

AFTER **12** **12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead** (S) **12.05** BBC News (S)

BBC2

9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (S) **11.00 Wimbledon Wheelchair Finals** (S) **12.30 Nigel Slater: Eating Together** (S)(R) **1.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British** (S)(R) **1.45 FILM Father of the Bride Part II (1995) (PG)** (S) **3.25 Wanted Down Under** (S)(R) **4.10 Meerkats: Secrets of an Animal Superstar** (S)(R) **5.10 Songs of Praise** (S) **5.45 Flog It!** (S)(R) **6.30 Wimbledon 2017** (S)

8.00 FILM The Lone Ranger (2013) (12) Western, starring Armie Hammer and Johnny Depp. Edited for daytime broadcast. (S)

10.20 Today at Wimbledon Clare Balding and guests look back at highlights of the men's singles final, where the third Grand Slam title of the year was set to be decided. (S)

11.20 Golf: Scottish Open Eilidh Barbour presents highlights of the final round of the European Tour event. (S)

12.20 Athletics: Diamond League Rabat Highlights (S) **1.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile (S)(R) **2.15** Holby City (S)(R) **3.15** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

10.25 Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury (S)(R) **10.55 Love Your Garden** (S)(R) **11.55 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.10 James Martin's French Adventure** (S)(R) **12.40 The Voice Kids Semi-Final** (S)(R) **2.40 Bear Grylls Survival School** (S)(R) **3.10 FILM For Your Eyes Only (1981) (PG)** (S) **5.40 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.55 ITV News** (S) **6.10 The Celebrity Chase** (S)

7.10 The Voice Kids Final Emma Willis presents the grand final of the talent contest. Last in the series. (S)

9.00 The Loch A body is pulled from the Loch, and a photograph in his wallet provides a vital clue. Albrighton continues to pursue his theory, putting his life on the line. Last in the series. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S) **10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories** Barrister Robert Rinder examines the cases of a boy who was kept as a slave for 13 years. (S)(R)

11.20 Take Me Out Would-be Romeos from Croydon, Swansea, Essex and Leeds try to win dates by winning the approval of a pool of 30 single women. (S)(R)

12.30 Jackpot247 3.00 Motorsport UK (S) **3.50 ITV** Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

6.15 Last Man Standing (S) **7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.00 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.00 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.00 Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live Build-Up** (S) **12.35 Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live** (S) **3.10 Formula 1 British Grand Prix Live Reaction** (S) **4.30 World's Most Expensive Cars** (S) **5.35 The Restoration Man** (S)(R) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 World Para Athletics Championships London 2017 Coverage of the evening session on day three of the Championships. (S)

9.30 The Handmaid's Tale The Commander takes Offred on a surprising adventure that reveals one of Gilead's best-kept secrets, and Nick is recruited by the Sons of Jacob. (S)

10.35 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jonathan Ross, Lee Mack and Victoria Coren Mitchell join regulars Jon Richardson and Jimmy Carr. (S)(R)

11.35 FILM The Lincoln Lawyer (2011) (15) Thriller, with Matthew McConaughey and Marisa Tomei. (S)

1.45 The World's Weirdest Weather (S)(R) **2.40** The Last Leg (S)(R) **3.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly (S) **4.00** Gillette World Sport (S) **4.30** Mobil 1 The Grid (S)(R) **5.00** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **5.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun (S)(R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S) **10.40 Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **11.05 Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **12.00 Naughty Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **12.55 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 4** (S)(R) **1.55 FILM Racing Stripes (2004) (U)** (S) **3.45 FILM Alvin and the Chipmunks (2007) (U)** (S) **5.30 FIA Formula E Live** (S)

7.10 Cricket on 5 England v South Africa. (S)

8.00 That's So 1981 An entertaining look at the year. (S)(R) **8.55 5 News Weekend** (S)

9.00 Big Brother Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. (S)

10.00 FILM 21 Jump Street (2012) (15) Comedy inspired by the 1980s TV series, starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. Includes 5 News Update at 11pm. (S)

11.00 5 News Update **11.05 FILM 21 Jump Street (2012) (15)** Concluded. (S)

12.15 OMG! Boy Beauty Addicts (S) **1.10** SuperCasino (S) **3.10** Little Divas Tantrums & Tiaras (S)(R) **4.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges (S)(R) **4.50** Great Artists (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 You've Been Framed! Gold **6.25** Emmerdale **9.25** Coronation Street **11.50** Ninja Warrior UK **12.50** FILM: Babe (1995) (U) Family comedy, starring James Cromwell. **1.55** FYI Daily **2.00** FILM: Babe (1995) (U) Concluded. **2.40** The Voice Kids Semi-Final **4.40** FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) (U) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell. **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) (U) Concluded. **6.20** FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) (12) Superhero adventure reboot, starring Andrew Garfield. **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) (12) Concluded. **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 George and Mildred **6.25** Inspector Morse **8.30** Heartbeat **10.40** Murder, She Wrote **11.40** The Darling Buds of May **12.50** Wycliffe **1.55** Foyle's War **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** The Booze Cruise III **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wire in the Blood **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.05** Rising Damp **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Lucy Worsley: Mozart's London Odyssey. Presenters Dick Strawbridge and Professor Alice Roberts explore the British landscapes that inspired author Arthur Ransome to write his famous series Swallows and Amazons. **8.00** BBC Proms 2017 **10.00** John Denver: Country Boy **11.00** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **12.00** Dissected: The Incredible Human Hand **1.00** Britain's Whale Hunters: The Untold Story **2.00** Atlantis – The Evidence **3.00** Lucy Worsley: Mozart's London Odyssey **4.00** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **6.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **8.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** FILM: Space Chimps 2: Zartog Strikes Back (2010) (U) Animated sci-fi comedy sequel, with the voice of Zack Shada. **12.40** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **1.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special **9.00** FILM: Speed (1994) (15) Action thriller, starring Keanu Reeves. **11.20** Rude Tube **12.25** Gogglebox **1.25** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** 8 Out of 10 Cats **3.10** The Goldbergs **3.35** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Location, Location, Location **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.45** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **7.55** The Secret Life of the Zoo **8.55** Father Ted **9.30** World Para Athletics Championships London 2017. Concluding coverage of the evening session on day three of the Championships. **10.05** Micky Flanagan's Out Out Tour **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E **12.15** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.10** 24 Hours in A&E **3.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Wackiest Ship in the Army (1960) (U) Second World War comedy, starring Jack Lemmon. **1.00** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) (U) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of John Leguizamo. **2.45** Carry On Spying (1964) (U) Comedy, starring Kenneth Williams. **4.30** The Jewel of the Nile (1985) (PG) Comedy adventure sequel, starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. **6.35** Grease (1978) (PG) Romantic musical, with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. **9.00** Men in Black 3 (2012) (PG) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith. **11.10** Machete Kills (2013) (15) Action thriller sequel, starring Danny Trejo. **1.20** Lunacy (2005) (18) Satirical horror, starring Pavel Liska. **3.50** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **10.00** Motorway Cops **11.00** Traffic Cops **12.00** Top Gear **1.00** Would I Lie to You? **3.00** Not Going Out **5.00** Top Gear **6.00** Red Bull Soapbox: Mumbai **7.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Live at the Apollo **12.00** QI XL **1.00** Mock the Week **2.50** Parks and Recreation **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.00 The Bill **10.45** Call the Midwife **2.45** Catherine Cookson's The Rag Nymph **5.45** The Musketeers **7.00** Jonathan Creek **8.00** The Doctor Blake Mysteries **9.00** Silent Witness **11.20** Spooks **12.40** The Lost World **3.35** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Futurama **9.30** Football's Funniest Moments **10.00** DRL: Drone Racing 2017: Boston Foundry **11.00** Drone Racing League **12.00** WWE Raw Hlts **1.00** It's Me or the Dog **3.00** Modern Family **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Dogs: An Amazing Animal Family **9.00** Ross Kemp: Extreme World **10.00** The Force: North East **11.00** Zoo **12.00** A League of Their Own **1.00** Ross Kemp: Extreme World **2.00** Night Cops **4.00** It's Me or the Dog **5.00** RSPCA Animal Rescue

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

9.00 Fish Town **10.00** House **1.00** David Attenborough's Natural History Museum Alive **2.30** The Bachelor King **4.00** Blue Bloods **8.00** The South Bank Show **9.00** Game of Thrones **12.30** Game of Thrones: The Story So Far **2.00** Game of Thrones **3.10** Twin Peaks: The Return **4.20** Urban Secrets

W SKY: 109

6.00 Passport Patrol **6.30** Your Home in Their Hands **8.00** My Dream Home **9.00** MasterChef USA **1.00** Doctor Who **3.00** My Family **5.00** Outnumbered **7.00** One Born Every Minute **10.00** Educating Yorkshire **11.00** Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders **12.00** Beverly Hills Pawn **12.30** MasterChef Australia **2.10** The Strain **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.30 The Piglet Files **8.20** Last of the Summer Wine **11.00** Porridge **2.20** Open All Hours **9.00** The Royle Family **9.40** Mrs Brown's Boys **10.25** Live at the Apollo **11.25** Men Behaving Badly **12.40** Inside No 9 **2.00** Brian Pern: A Life In Rock **3.10** The Thick of It **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football Gold **7.00** WWE Main Event **8.00** Premier League Legends **9.00** Fight Night **11.00** Football's Greatest Players **11.30** Live Formula 1. The drivers are presented to the fans during the British Grand Prix track parade. **12.00** Live Formula 1. Simon Lazenby and the team present live from the pit lane. **12.30** Live Formula 1. The British Grand Prix (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Live Formula 1. Updates and interviews from the paddock area following the British Grand Prix. **4.15** Fight Night **6.15** Football Gold **6.30** Live Star Sixes Football. Coverage of day four of the six-a-side tournament at The O2 in London. **10.15** Formula 1 **11.15** Premier League Legends **12.15** Star Sixes Football **4.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Take a seat and travel world

By Samantha McGregor

A cast of eight play 125 characters in this latest production of Around the World in 80 Days

THEATRE goers are in for a visual treat later this month when Around the World in 80 Days takes to the Oxford stage.

This production will open at the Oxford Playhouse from July 25 until 29.

Following the success of last summer's Peter Pan in Scarlet, director Theresa Heskins returns to the Playhouse with her celebrated production of Jules Verne's classic adventure Around the World in 80 Days.

Adapted by Laura Eason, this fast-paced show has been described as a visual treat, which will showcase clever theatrics, hilarious characters and fantastical scenarios, all mixed together with a large dollop of your own imagination.

The production tells the story of the mysterious and fabulously wealthy Phileas Fogg, who wagers his life's fortune that he can circumnavigate the globe in just 80 days.

This packed story follows the escapades of Fogg and his loyal valet, Passepartout, as they voyage from the misty alleys of Victorian London to the exotic subcontinent and the Wild West in a race against the clock.

This adventure is underpinned by a bold and uplifting musical score and stars a talented cast of eight playing more than 125 characters.

Featuring six trains, five boats, four fights, three dances, two circus acts and an elephant, this production is not just for young, intrepid explorers with big imaginations – it makes big people feel like little people again too.

This show is recommended for children from age seven upwards and is a perfect way for families to kick off the summer holidays.

Tickets for Around the World in 80 Days at Oxford Playhouse start at £12 and are available by calling 01865 305305, or through the website: oxfordplayhouse.com.

Concert treat

MUSIC: The Challow Chamber Players will perform in the hall at Challow Park, Challow Road, Wantage, on Saturday, at 7.30pm.

The Challow Chamber Players, with lead Priscilla Daniels, conducted by Graham Blyth and soprano Sarah Barnett, perform Benjamin Britten's Les Illuminations for soprano and string orchestra, and Michael Tippet Concerto for Double String Orchestra.

Tickets, on the door, cost £10 for adults and £5 for under 18s.

TV on doorstep

OXON: Countryfile Live will once again return to the grounds of Blenheim Palace from August 3 to 6, bringing the best of the countryside to Oxfordshire.

There will be live arena shows, talks and displays of animals, livestock and farming in action.

The event will also allow visitors to try a mix of outdoor activities and sports and browse stalls selling food, drink, artisan design and craft, country clothing, homeware, gardening and pet supplies.

Countryfile presenters will also take to the stage in the new Countryfile Theatre to share stories of life on set.

Go to countryfilelive.com.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

The bard set in Bodleian Quad

By Samantha McGregor

THE dates for one of Oxford's summer highlights – Shakespeare outdoors – have been announced.

Oxford Playhouse and the Bodleian Library welcome The Watermill's 50th anniversary production of Twelfth Night from July 25 to August 3.

Directed by Paul Hart, who last worked on Propeller, Twelfth Night will be performed in the stunning outdoor setting of the Old School's Quadrangle.

Deemed to be one of Shakespeare's finest comedies, this Playhouse Plays Out production is brimming full of brass, oozing charisma and is steaming with sultry jazz.

Set in the 1920s with Europe reeling in the wake of war, Shakespeare's tale of mistaken identity, mischievous mishaps and misplaced love is accompanied by unforgettable live music inspired by the likes of Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong.

Twelfth Night was believed to have been written in the early 1600s and centres around twins Viola and Sebastian, who were separated in a shipwreck.

Viola escapes the shipwreck with the help of a captain and believes her brother has perished.

Disguised as a boy she calls herself Cesario, Viola falls in love with Duke Orsino, but he is in love with the Countess Olivia. However, upon meeting Viola, Countess Olivia falls in love with her thinking she is a man.

Will love find a way? And what happened to Sebastian? Can there be a happy ending?

Set in the glorious, historic setting of the Bodleian Quad, Twelfth Night is brought to life by an ensemble of actor-musicians, balancing comedy, romance and music showcasing The Watermill's critically acclaimed bold and playful style.

Playhouse Plays Out is Oxford Playhouse's programme of performances happening outside the theatre building across the county – engaging work in unusual settings.

Tickets for Twelfth Night start at £22 and are available on 01865 305305 or view oxfordplayhouse.com.

A scene from the Playhouse Plays Out production of Twelfth Night. Picture: Scott Rylander

Acrobats fuse circus skills with theatre

AWARD-winning acrobats Barely Methodical Troupe make a return to Oxford with their "electrifying" circus show.

They bring their new show Kin to the Oxford Playhouse on July 21 and 22. It comes after their successful 2015 international smash-hit Bromance.

Britain's hottest young acrobats are back with this exhilarating show which will leave you amazed.

The performers' skills and showmanship will leave the audience amazed with their physical tumbling, flying and catching.

This experimental troupe fuses hand-to-hand and Cyr wheel with parkour and contemporary dance.

One of UK's hottest circus companies, Barely Methodical Troupe are at the forefront of a new kind of physical performance.

They create highly entertaining shows that mix the show-stopping acrobatics of circus with the emotional punch of theatre.

This show has been described as a breath-taking display of athleticism, dare and nerve.

Tickets for Kin start at £11.50 available at the Playhouse box office on 01865 305305, or go to oxfordplayhouse.com.

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ADVERTORIAL

Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets.

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing **too little, too late** to protect their hard-earned assets.

Paul King, Head of April King Legal

Care Cost Fees

"A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the Local Authority to help pay for these services."

"The Local Authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the Local Authority will take over the fees."

"For instance, my own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her."

"When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate was counted in the Local Authority's means test."

"Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the Local Authority get it all?'"

"Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 and that's all her children inherited."

"There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this."

"The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true."

"Local Authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time."

"Sometimes people think that if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe. This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not Local Authority care."

"The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place."

"What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills."

"If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would only have been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe."

"Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?"

"The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, then they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning."

"It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain that most clients he sees are surprised to learn remarriage usually cancels a Will and makes the spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children! Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a Will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a Will that deals with their estate on death, and a Lasting Power of Attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

"There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare."

"In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise."

"It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with the banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they should receive care."

"Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times."

"You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available."

"Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a Lasting Power of Attorney document."

"Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill health happen further down the line."

"It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death."

"Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health."

"If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for a Deputyship Order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process."

"It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family."

"Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly when there are children or a business involved."

"It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us."

"People think, 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a Power of Attorney?' But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance."

"The Lasting Power of Attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it."

"Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."

Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard 'Mirror Wills' with other firms before approaching the Firm. A Mirror Will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the Local Authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children."

"Even if my children are named in my Mirror Will, it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything."

"Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin."

"This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit."

"The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a Mirror Will."

"If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance."

"Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work."

"I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has."

"Bloodline Trust Wills give greater protection to your children."

"These type of Wills not only give your children complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, they also grant added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life."

"The wording in these Wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

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April King has prepared a free information pack for readers of the Oxfordshire Guardian which is available by calling

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Spotlight on late artist's work

By Samantha McGregor

Rose Finn-Kelcey's work Glory will be on show in Oxford

THE first posthumous exhibition of works by the acclaimed artist Rose Finn-Kelcey will be staged in Oxford.

Life, Belief and Beyond focuses on Finn-Kelcey's explorations of power, performance, political commentary, and perceptions of the self, belief and spirituality.

The exhibition opens at Modern Art Oxford on Saturday and runs until October 15.

It presents works from the early 1970s to 2014, including Divided Self – Speaker's Corner from 1974, The Restless Image: a discrepancy between the seen position and the felt position, from 1975; Glory dating from 1983, Bureau de Change of 1987, and It Pays to Pray from 1999.

These are presented alongside photographs, collage, performance documentation, preparatory material and sketches in progress, which have never before been exhibited.

Born in Northampton in 1945, Finn-Kelcey grew up in Buckinghamshire and studied at Ravensbourne College and then at Chelsea College of Art, before embarking on one of Britain's most significant post-war artistic journeys. She continued to live and work in London from 1968 until she died from motor neurone disease in 2014.

Finn-Kelcey's engagement with questions of power and agency was a driving force behind her decision to stage works within public institutions.

These included broadcasting corporations, churches, energy suppliers and local government agencies, including her striking flag works, such as Fog, flown from Alexandra Palace in 1971, and Power for the People, hoisted briefly at Battersea Power Station in 1972.

Her work can be found in national and international collections.

As part of the Oxford exhibition there will be a public programme of workshops and talks. For details, go to modernartoxford.org.uk.

Playhouse delight at funding boost

THE Oxford Playhouse is set to receive funding from the Arts Council England for four more years, it has announced.

This latest grant was made in recognition of the high quality theatrical programme and its extensive work with young people and emerging artists.

The playhouse said the Arts Council England funding represented 10 per cent of its turnover, but would allow the theatre to keep ticket prices low and continue to bring world class theatre to Oxford.

Playhouse chief executive officer and director Louise Chantal said: "This is fantastic news for the Playhouse and its audiences.

"Funding from the Arts Council and our other core supporters means we can be a theatre for everyone, not just the few.

"We are now able to put into place our exciting plans for the next four years, which include the return of the Playhouse PlaysOut Tent touring free family theatre to some of the most isolated areas in the county, more home-grown productions and long-term investment in artists from across the country."

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

On your bikes for festival

WHAT better way is there to explore the south Oxfordshire countryside than to jump on your bike and start pedalling?

Thousands of people are expected to do just that when the Wallingford Festival of Cycling takes place on Sunday.

A packed programme of events has been put together for keen cyclists and social riders alike, running throughout the day from the town centre and Kinecroft Park.

The elite programme includes the British Cycling National Junior Championships – new for this year – with races starting and finishing in Wallingford.

But it is not just about watching the professionals, with festival organiser Tony Sefton encouraging cyclists of all ages and abilities to come along and take part.

He said: "We are really looking forward to welcoming families to Wallingford.

"As well as the family and child rides that start in the Kinecroft, we have a free bike park to allow everyone to ride to the festival and leave their bikes while they explore all that there is to see and do."

Distances range from a challenging 110km sportive to a five-mile family ride, meaning cyclists of all ages and abilities are well catered for.

It's not all about lengthy rides out into rural Oxfordshire however, with plenty going on in Wallingford itself to keep everyone entertained.

Kinecroft Park will be host to exciting stunt shows every hour from midday to 4pm, as well as a variety of food stalls and bike shops showcasing their latest cycle merchandise.

You can also head back to the 19th century and try out an old-fashioned penny farthing, as long as you're feeling brave enough! They will be racing later on in the afternoon as well.

Children aged four and over can also enjoy some cycle coaching and a practice race around a grass circuit.

And for those who just fancy watching the experts pound round the streets of Wallingford town centre, five Criterium races for men, women and children will be staged around a 950m course from 1.35pm.

Racing is set to be highly competitive, and will need a loud and enthusiastic crowd as a backdrop.

Tony added: "As the day progresses we will see the race programme start around the dedicated town centre circuit. Racers from all over the country will be coming along to try to win on the day.

"But perhaps the highlight is the National Junior Road Race. It will be contested around the roads of south Oxfordshire and finishes in Wallingford, where the national champions will be presented with their jerseys."

For more information, go to wallingfordfestivalofcycling.co.uk.

Festival programme of events:

Kinecroft Park
8am-2pm - 110km sportive
8am-11.15am - 50km sportive
9am-9.15am - Women only start for the sportives
9.15am-12.15pm - 20 mile mountain bike ride
9.30am-11.40am - 11 mile mountain bike ride
10am-4pm - Go Ride children's event
10.30am-12.30pm - Five mile family ride
1pm-4pm - Learn to ride a penny farthing

Wallingford town centre
10.20am-1pm - National Junior Men's road race
10.45am-5pm - BMX skills sessions
1.35pm-2.05pm - Midsomer Murders Cup (novice men)
1.45pm-2pm - Junior Men's race presentation
2.10pm-4.45pm - National Junior Women's road race
2.25pm-2.50pm - Youth boys' race
2.50pm - 3.05pm - Finishers' parade
3.10pm-3.35pm - Youth girls' race
3.40pm-4.15pm - Elite men's race
4.15pm-5pm - Penny farthing race
5pm-5.15pm - Junior Woman's race presentation
5.15pm-5.50pm - Elite women's race
5.45pm-6pm - Town centre circuit open for all cyclists

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TO help celebrate summer, we are giving away a pair of weekend tickets to all three days of the annual Silverstone Classic (28-30 July), the biggest historic motor sport festival on Earth. Six lucky runners up will win a pair of tickets to the Sunday of the summer spectacular.

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The non-stop on-track action features the cream of historic racing action from huge Formula 1, Sports Cars, GT and Touring Car grids – more nostalgic racing than you will see anywhere else in the world in one weekend!

Adding some extra star dust, this year's sparkling race card also includes a special Celebrity Challenge Trophy Race. Famous faces already confirmed include several Olympic gold medal winners including Jason Kenny and Amy Williams, Brian Johnson from AC/DC, former England cricket captain Mike Gatting and boxing legend Carl Froch.

Closing date: Sunday, July 16

Live music is one of the Classic's popular attractions. The Bootleg Beatles are topping the line-up on Friday while Saturday's bill includes former Spandau Ballet front-man Tony Hadley.

But the entertainment doesn't stop there. A vintage funfair, air displays, hot air balloons, streetcar shoot-outs, 4x4 passenger experiences, Spitfire demonstrations, crazy golf, a huge shopping village, an adrenaline zone and a live eBay restoration are all included in the cost of admission.

Indeed, all tickets include free entrance to racing paddocks, track-side grandstands plus the live music concerts and many of the activities. Adult admission is from just £43 and full details can be found on the www.silverstoneclassic.com website.

Win tickets!

To be in with a chance of winning go to the website and answer the following simple question.

Q: Tony Hadley was the lead singer of which chart-topping band? Spandau Ballet, Duran Duran or Human League?

SilverstoneClassic 28|29|30 JULY 2017

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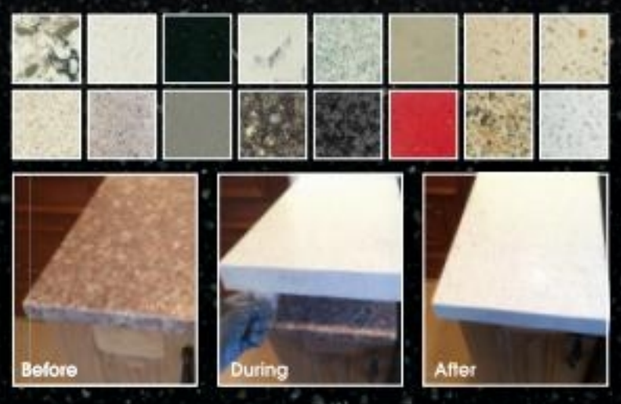

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MG 3FORM SPORT

Fun supermini won't break bank

By **Tony Yates**

MG has a long history when it comes to making motor cars and I can recall many models that made MG as a brand stand out above all others – for instance the MG Midget, the MGA and the MGB GT V8 are just a few of the iconic models that I can remember from my youth.

When this much-loved brand was re-launched back in 2011 the response was positive and for me this was great news; because I was happy that once again I would start seeing a new generation of MG motor cars hit our streets.

So in light of this – I thought it was about time I gave the MG3 supermini a full work out.

Power and Efficiency:

The MG3 is powered by a 1.5 DOHC VTi-TECH engine that produces 106PS @6000rpm and has a top speed of 108mph. Fuel consumption is around 48mpg (combined) and a 0-60 time of around 10 seconds. The engine feels very willing – and for an engine that is normally aspirated I think it does that rather well. Ok – it's never going to set any records, but why should it?

The MG3 was built to meet a need for a car that was not only well equipped, but also priced without breaking the bank or jacking up insurance premiums.

On the road:

The MG3 feels fine – nothing to complain about really. It's fun to drive and the chassis is doing a great job of keeping you pressed into the Tarmac with plenty of grip, but I found that road noise can be high on some surfaces and I think a little extra sound proofing here and there would have been a welcome introduction.

Design and Interior:

The interior is not as good as some, but for a budget motor I can forgive it for its basic approach, although the seating was comfortable and the space inside is more than adequate.

The dials and switches are set out well and the interior stands out better than some of its budget rivals like the Dacia Sandero. Also, let's not forget about the wide range of personalisation options you can choose from.

Technology:

The MG 3FORM Sport model is fitted with a CD player with six speakers and USB input along with a host of extras like; LED daytime running lights, DAB radio, multi-function trip computer, stability control system (SCS) including ABS, EBD, EBA, CBC and engine stop-start function.

You also get hill hold control, electronic air conditioning, automatic front wipers, leather steering wheel, front and rear electric windows, rear tailgate spoiler, and a whole host of additional features you would not expect to get from a car costing very little money indeed.

To sum up: not a bad little car if you are on a budget.

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Models shown : MG GS Exclusive with metallic paint in Spiced Orange at £20,090 and MG3 3Style+ in Newton Black with White Trophy Stripe graphics pack and white wing mirror caps at £12,045.40. †On the road (OTR) price of £8,695 applies to the MG3 3Time with no optional extras and £15,095 applies to the MG GS Explore with no optional extras. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months'Vehicle Excise Duty'. From prices exclude optional metallic paint, accessories and graphics packs. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply:
*0% APR: Conditional sale. 0% APR available on all MG3 and MG GS models until 30.06.2017. A minimum deposit of 20% of the cash OTR price applies on all MG3 models and 30% of the cash OTR price applies on all MG GS models. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at participating dealers. See your local dealer or visit mg.co.uk/offers for details.

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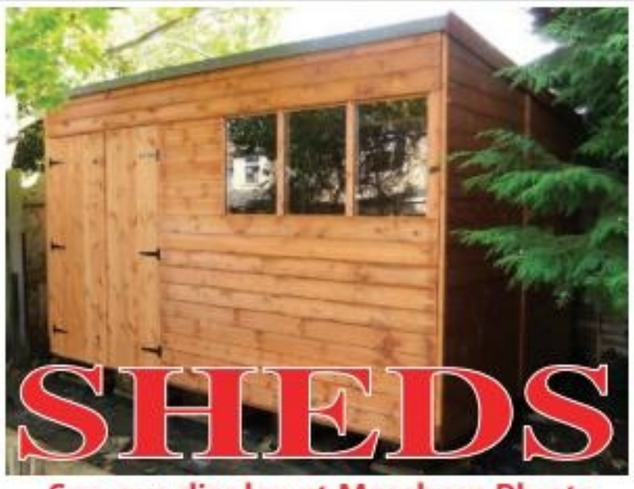
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First double points of season for Williams

Felipe Massa (car 19) and Lance Stroll both ended inside the top-10. Picture: Glenn Dunbar/Williams

Formula One

By George Welch

WILLIAMS followed their strongest showing of the season in Azerbaijan two weeks ago by recording a double points finish for the first time this year at the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday.

The Grove-based outfit recovered from a disastrous qualifying campaign to edge into the points as Lance Stroll and Felipe Massa elbowed their way up through the field.

Both Massa and Stroll were knocked out of Q1 in 17th and 18th respectively but took advantage of a first-lap collision to get both cars inside the top-10.

Canadian Stroll, left perplexed by Williams' worst qualifying performance since the 2014 British Grand Prix, fought off the determined efforts of Renault driver Jolyon Palmer to pick up a point in 10th.

Similarly, Massa's improved race-pace helped the Brazilian climb from the rear end of the grid to seal ninth and two points.

The Williams pair gained a handful of positions by the end of the opening lap following an opening corner collision involving Daniil Kvyat, Fernando Alonso and Max Verstappen.

Not that Massa was complaining. He said: "For sure you cannot celebrate a ninth position but starting 17th it was a fantastic race for me.

"I had a really good start, getting through the issues that were happening in corner one, and overtaking cars.

"It was a fantastic first lap as the pace was great, compared to qualifying, which is something we need to work to understand so that we don't repeat starting out of position like today."

He chased Force India's Esteban Ocon in eighth place to no avail but admitted: "I'm so happy with my race and it's good to have both cars in the points."

Stroll, who claimed his third consecutive points finish, was buoyed by the duo's recovery but stressed Williams needs to find a cure for its mysterious lack of pace in qualifying before the upcoming British Grand Prix.

Stroll, who moves up to 11th in the drivers' championship, said: "It goes to show anything can happen in a race and it is not over on a Saturday.

"I am feeling very positive as I started 18th, finished 10th and picked up another point.

"We need to figure out what happened to us in qualifying and try to cure it for the next race."

Season's best for Haas racer Grosjean

Formula One

ROMAIN Grosjean secured his highest finish of the Formula 1 season as he crossed the line in sixth place at the Austrian Grand Prix.

The Haas driver celebrated a strong race to record his fifth points-scoring finish of the campaign for the Banbury-based team.

The Frenchman made a strong start and ran as high as fourth before giving up positions to Kimi Raikkonen and Lewis Hamilton.

He eventually brought his car home in sixth place – the last car on the lead lap – to pick up eight points and record Haas's best ever finish in Austria.

Grosjean, who admitted before the race that he was surprised by Haas' upturn in form in Austria, praised "a really strong race".

He said: "We pushed hard all the way and that's the racing we like. It was a great race and a great job by all the guys.

"I was happy with the car all weekend long. There are a few things we need to improve, but today we were the best of the rest.

Romain Grosjean leads the way. Picture: Haas F1

There was less joy for Banbury team-mate Kevin Magnussen though, who was forced to the garage with a hydraulic issue on lap 30.

The Dane was 11th and poised to join Grosjean in the points before he had to retire.

Magnussen said: "It's pretty tough when these things happen. You're in a good position, the car's working really well, and it was our strongest weekend with the most potential for a good result for both cars.

"I could easily have been up there with Romain and we could've had a perfect result for the team. It's just been really poor luck this weekend."

Didcot celebrates great year

Netball

MEMBERS of Didcot Netball Club celebrated their end of season with an annual awards evening.

The award for most improved junior team went to High 5, with all its members receiving medals.

The most improved senior category was awarded to Lucy Cross, for showing passion in the games played in the winter league, while defender Vanessa Taylor, pictured, was named senior player of the year.

The award for best junior player was given to Mia Ashley, for always playing with a good spirit and assisting coaches by 'leading by example, passion and patience'.

Mandy Blair, the club's chair, said: "The club has continued to grow and develop in terms of both numbers and performance.

"We now have more than 50 ladies and over 60 juniors playing.

"This year the club has, again, increased the number of teams competing in the Oxfordshire league and with great results."

Frilford Heath hosts eighth Battle Back Golf showdown

The Battle Back and Battle Pack teams celebrate a successful day

Golf

FRILFORD Heath Golf Club welcomed wounded and injured service personnel to Oxfordshire for the eighth annual Battle Back Golf event competition.

Founded in Surrey in 2009, the Battle Back golf programme is a military initiative designed to utilise sport to support the wounded, injured and sick.

The Battle Back versus Battle Pack competition pitched 12 past and present service personnel against 12 golf industry representatives.

Making up the 'pack' was Frilford Heath chairman Alistair Booth and general manager Russell Stebbings, along with Kevin Hart from Club Car and the new PGA executive director and founder of Battle Back Golf, Lt Col (Retd) Tristan Crew.

The initiative began when Lt Col Crew approached Battle Back, an MOD initiative, with the proposal of starting a golfing programme.

He said: "Maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle is an important part of service life and that includes personnel who have been injured.

"Over the years the programme has proved successful in supplementing the physical, psychological and cognitive rehabilitation of over 200 serving and veteran personnel."

The teams played the 5,900-yard green course and fought closely for the title and the final scores were 3.5 to 2.5 to the Battle Packers, putting the Packers 5–3 up in the series.

Mr Booth said: "We were delighted to host the eighth golf competition and thankfully the rain held off and we had a great day of golf."

Palmer: I'm the master of 11th

Formula One

JOLYON Palmer has labelled himself as "the master of 11th place" after he finished in the position for the third time in four races.

The Renault racer pushed Williams' Lance Stroll all the way in Austria but finished less than half a second behind the final points position.

The Brit, in his second season at the Enstone-based side, also captured 11th in Monaco and Canada, meaning his frustrating hunt for a first point of 2017 rumbles on.

He said: "It's my third race with an 11th place finish, once more within touching distance of points.

"I had Lance Stroll in my way for just over 40 laps and couldn't get past him, which is frustrating.

"I need to focus on qualifying better, but throughout the weekend the pace seemed improved so overall there are some positives. The conclusion is I'm the master of 11th place."

Teammate Nico Hülkenberg suffered another miserable race after triggering his car's anti-stall on the grid.

Having started in 11th he tumbled down the order and could only recover to 13th place.

Hülkenberg said: "It was a difficult race for me – I had a terrible start.

"That was the beginning of the end for me. I was almost last before the first corner and from then onwards it was clear that it was going to be a difficult afternoon."

Here's how the early games in the FA competitions shape up:

NON-LEAGUE teams in Oxfordshire are dreaming of Wembley following the preliminary draws for the Emirates FA Cup.

Most of the county's football clubs are knocked out of one of the world's biggest club cup competitions by the end of September but will fancy their chances more in the FA Buildbase Trophy and Buildbase FA Vase.

Draws for all three tournaments were announced on Friday:

Emirates FA Cup extra preliminary round (to be played August 5):
- **Ardley United** v Baldock Town
- Lydney Town v **Wantage Town**

Emirates FA Cup preliminary round (to be played August 19):
- **Ardley United**/Baldock Town v Welwyn Garden City/North Greenford United
- Flackwell Heath/Burnham v **Didcot Town**
- Highmoor Ibis/Buckingham Town v **North Leigh**
- **Kidlington** v Lydney Town/**Wantage Town**
- Uxbridge v **Thame United**

Buildbase FA Trophy preliminary round (to be played October 7)
- **Kidlington** v Winchester City
- **North Leigh** v Wimborne Town
- Mangotsfield United v **Thame United**
- Shortwood United v **Didcot Town**

Buildbase FA Trophy first qualifying round (to be played October 28):
- **Kidlington**/Winchester City v Slough
- Mangotsfield United/**Thame United** v **North Leigh**/Wimborne Town
- Shortwood United/**Didcot Town** v Frome
- Tiverton Town v **Banbury United**

Buildbase FA Vase first qualifying round (to be played September 9):
- **Abingdon United** v Highmoor Ibis
- **Ardley United** v Longlevens
- Hadley v **Milton United**
- **Oxford City Nomads** v Woodley

Buildbase FA Vase second qualifying round (to be played September 23):
- **Abingdon United**/Highmoor Ibis v Welwyn Garden City/Brackley Town
- Edgware Town/Risborough Rangers v **Henley Town**
- Hadley/**Milton United** v Colney Heath/Harefield United
- **Oxford City Nomads**/Woodley v Baldock Town/Buckingham Town
- Tytherington Rocks v **Ardley United**/Longlevens
- **Wallingford Town** v Oxhey Jets
- **Wantage Town** v Lydney Town/Winslow United

Oxford United have been drawn with academy side Brighton Under-21s, fellow League One team MK Dons and League Two outfit Stevenage in Group G of the Checkatrade Trophy.

Have your say online

Hoops boss welcomes return of trio to City

Oxford City

By George Welch

THREE familiar faces have returned to Oxford City as the club continues its busy transfer window dealings for next season.

Hoops boss Mark Jones has welcomed midfielders Zac McEachran and Mo Fofana and young striker Horatio Hirst back to Court Place Farm.

McEachran, younger brother of former Chelsea and current Brentford midfielder Josh, has joined from Banbury United for an undisclosed fee, while teenager Hirst has re-joined on a six-month loan deal from Sheffield United.

City have also welcomed back Fofana for a third spell.

The trio take the number of new additions at the National League South side to eight as Jones moulds his own team after being appointed on a permanent basis this summer.

A graduate of the Oxford City youth development programme, 22-year-old McEachran, who turned down a new contract at the Puritans, made his debut for the club in the National League North as a 17-year-old.

He has spent the past two years with Banbury and recently spent time at the Jamie Vardy Academy.

Jones described McEachran, who scored four times in the Southern Premier League last year, as a very talented young player.

Jones said: "We feel he will fit well into our squad. We want to see skilful, creative players at the club and Zac possesses the ability to go past defenders and has a good vision to play clever passes."

Banbury boss Mike Ford, who managed City between 2009 and 2014, wished McEachran luck at a higher level, adding: "We are losing a very valued member of our squad. I would have loved to have kept him and we as a football club did everything we could to do so but unfortunately he has chosen to spend next season at a different club."

Striker Hirst, meanwhile, has joined on a six-month temporary deal from Championship side Sheffield United.

The d'Overbroecks College student signed for the Yorkshire club in December after scoring 51 goals for City's youth team in the 2015/16 campaign.

Having been fast tracked into the Under-23 setup at the Blades, the loan deal will allow Hirst to continue his development by playing National League football while continuing his A Level studies. Jones said Hirst's movement, work rate and goal scoring ability have impressed him.

The third player to return to the club is midfield enforcer Mo Fofana, who spent time with the Hoops in 2014 and 2015.

Zac McEachran in action on Saturday. Picture: Michael Allen

Defeats add to Oxford's Blues

Oxford RL and Doncaster RL tussle it out for the ball. Picture: Simon Hall

ANOTHER difficult week continued Oxford RL's disastrous second half of the season with two more defeats.

Losses at Doncaster RL and Barrow Raiders in the past week extended the Blues' run of losses to seven matches.

Oxford lost 34-16 to Doncaster on Wednesday last week and capitulated 80-10 against Barrow on Saturday.

The run of dire form has caused Tim Rumford's side to plummet from ninth in Kingstone Press League 1 in May to 13th with just one game of the regular season remaining.

Barrow's Eze Harper scored three tries as the rampant Raiders ran in 14 tries.

The home side commanded a 56-0 lead at half-time before both sides had a man sent off for fighting early in the second half.

Oxford did manage to hit back against second placed Barrow with scores from Harrison Brough and Harvey Burnett, but there was no way back for them.

The thrashing came just three days after another defeat at Doncaster.

The Blues started slowly in the rearranged fixture and conceded four tries within the first 11 minutes.

Jordan Gill and Tommy Newbould crossed the line for Oxford but a further two first half tries from Donny established a comprehensive 30-8 half time lead.

The Blues' hopes were dented further by a seventh Doncaster try – Sam Doherty's hat-trick – on 66 minutes of the game.

But the persistent visitors made the score more respectable with a couple of tries in the last seven minutes as Gill and Marcus Brooker crashed over the line.

Rumford leads his Oxford side to Keighley Cougars on Sunday for their third consecutive away match.

City Stars sign up Hornets pair

TWO new faces have arrived at Oxpens Road as Oxford City Stars continue their preparations for the coming season.

New head coach Kenny Redmond has added netminder Ronai Milan and his own son-in-law Conor Redmond to his Stars line-up.

Conor joins from the Bracknell Hornets and, although only 22 years old, has iced for a number of teams in the former NIHL 1 and NIHL 2 divisions and has represented Ireland's national team.

He said: "It will definitely be better to be playing for the Stars fans rather than against them – they are a loud bunch and create an atmosphere that will be fun to play in.

"After a bit of instability throughout the leagues in the past few years I'm looking forward to settling in at Oxpens Road."

Milan, 21, has also joined from the Hornets and has experience playing in Hungary and Slovakia.

Kenny Redmond welcomed his new additions and said the acquisition of Milan will offer "great strength in depth with two top goalies".

Of his son-in-law, he added: "Conor has come on leaps and bounds. Never a flashy player, but he has excellent work ethic. I'm sure he'll be a major player for the Stars this year."

The new season begins in September.

New signing Ronai Milan

Oxford City 0

Oxford United 3

Joe Rothwell 11

Kane Hemmings 12

Wes Thomas 88

From left, Dave Jones, Pep Clotet and Darryl Eales

Pictures: Steve Daniels

Marvin Johnson crosses the ball for Wes Thomas to score

City's Freddie Grant in action in mid air. Picture: Michael Allen

Ryan Ledson takes a shot at goal

U's tempt striker away from rivals

Oxford United

By George Welch

NEW boss Pep Clotet has made former Swindon Town striker Jon Obika his first signing at Oxford United.

The 26-year-old bagged six goals in 31 appearances as United's rivals were relegated to SkyBet League Two last year.

He has signed a two-year deal after rejecting a contract extension at the Robins and was a target for the U's prior to Clotet's arrival.

Former Spurs youngster Obika said he was delighted to have signed for Oxford, adding: "It's a club that is going places, especially with the new manager coming in and I'm happy to be part of it."

Obika, who was farmed out on 11 loan spells at six different clubs before joining Swindon permanently in 2014, is unfazed by switching allegiances.

He said: "Obviously there is a rivalry with Swindon but people have made the move before and done well.

"All I want to do is come here, work as hard as possible in every game and look to score goals in a successful season."

Welcoming his first signing, Clotet said: "We have a really good recruitment team here and Jon is someone the club has been monitoring for a while.

"He has great pedigree, is able to play in a number of positions and gives us options up front, so we are very pleased that he has agreed to join us.

"We're eager to welcome Jon and begin working him so as to allow him to settle into the squad during preseason."

Obika has scored 48 goals in 141 league starts for seven clubs.

Three United scholars, meanwhile, have signed professional contracts at the club.

Goalkeeper Manny Agboola and winger Malachi Napa have each signed for one year, while midfielder Shandon Baptiste remains a scholar until the end of August, at which point his six-month pro contract will commence, giving him the chance to impress following a shoulder injury that sidelined him for the second half of last season.

Coach Derek Fazackerley said: "It's great news for both the club and these young players that they have taken their first steps into the professional game.

"[Goalkeeper coach] Wayne Brown speaks very highly of Manny, who has already featured on the bench for the first team, while both Malachi and Shandon are very promising youngsters with bags of skill."

Oxford are eager to welcome Jon Obika. Picture: OUFC

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Clotet era gets off to flying start with victorious derby

Wes Thomas slides in to score United's third goal. Picture: Steve Daniels

By George Welch

THE Pep Clotet era at Oxford United got under way with a comfortable 3-0 pre-season win at Oxford City.

A quickfire first half double from Joe Rothwell and Kane Hemmings was followed by a late Wes Thomas tap-in to round off a decisive win at United's city rivals' revamped Court Place Farm stadium on Saturday.

New U's boss Clotet opted to watch the first warm-up game from the stands as he let assistant head coaches Derek Fazackerley and Chris Allen take charge.

The Spaniard was left impressed with his side's display in a match that included summer signings Scott Shearer, Charlie Raglan and Fiacre Kelleher, alongside two trialists.

A record Hoops crowd of 2,276 – almost 500 more than the ground's previous record – marked the opening of the redeveloped Marsh Lane stadium and the new partnership between the two clubs.

On the pitch it took just 11 minutes for the U's, donning their new black away strip, to take the lead in the scorching heat.

Former Manchester United youngster Rothwell gave the U's the lead with a curling effort that fired into the far corner from just outside the area.

And 60 seconds later Clotet's side were 2-0 up when trialist Sam Shaban ran into the box and unselfishly squared to give Hemmings a simple finish from point-blank range.

The Yellows made 11 changes at the break and switched to an experimental 3-4-3 shape.

But this failed to slow the away side's momentum and their second trialist Josh Smile – a U's academy product released from Fulham this summer – forced a save from City's Craig Hillstraight from the restart.

Substitute Ezra Forde had City's best chance of the second half as his snap shot from a tough angle forced a smart save from Simon Eastwood.

United pushed for a third late on with Marvin Johnson and the returning Thomas going close.

But Thomas, who had earlier found the side netting, wasn't to be denied two minutes later when he slotted home a Johnson cross to make it 3-0 with two minutes remaining.

The Hoops picked up their first pre-seaon win on Tuesday with a 2-1 home win against Cheltenham Town.

United, meanwhile, were due to take on Championship side Middlesbrough in the Algarve last night. They will play Hull City at the same Ferreiras Stadium venue on Saturday.

Wolves winger Henry makes U's switch

OXFORD United have signed winger James Henry following his release from Championship side Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The 28-year-old has won promotion from League One three times and has signed a three-year deal at the Kassam.

Like new manager Pep Clotet's first signing Jon Obika (see inside), the former Millwall wide-man was on the club's radar before the Spaniard replaced former boss Michael Appleton.

Henry flew out to Portugal yesterday morning to join up with the United squad for their pre-season training camp.

However he was not expected to play any part in last night's friendly against Middlesbrough.

Henry, who has helped Millwall, Wolves and Bolton Wanderers win promotion from League One, said: "It's an exciting move for me. Oxford are a club making great progress and they were very impressive last season.

"The new manager has a fantastic reputation within football and I can't wait to meet up with the lads and join training this week."

The former Reading trainee started his career at his boyhood club but spent most of his time at the Madejski Stadium out on loan.

He spent four years at Millwall before making the move to Wolves in 2014, where he played more than 120 times in three years.

The former England youth international enjoyed much of last season on loan at Bolton, who he helped to second spot in League One.

He played against Oxford when the U's won 2-0 at the Macron Stadium in October.

U's manager Clotet said: "He has played a lot of football in the Championship and has real quality.

"He knows this league and been successful in it before: he has been promoted from it three times and we look forward to working with him."

Henry is likely to feature for the first time when United play Hull City on Saturday in Albufeira.

James Henry was announced as United's newest recruit on Wednesday. Picture: OUFC

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